



ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

SALLINS

Phone 045 879119

School Website: www.sallinsns.ie

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NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2023

Diary Dates:

Monday 16th October	Early closure for Staff Meeting 13:45 Junior & Senior Infants 14:00 1 st - 6 th Classes
Friday 27th October	Hallowe'en Walk – Parents Council Fundraiser
30th October – 3rd November incl.	Hallowe'en Break School re-opens on 6 th November

NEW PUPILS

A special welcome to all our new pupils who began school with us this year.



Return to School: We returned to school on Wednesday 30th August and were delighted to see all our pupils and staff back in school again. For the first two weeks we had no homework in order to help pupils, parents and staff to settle back into the school routine! I know that was a welcome start to the year.

SCHOOL TIMES: School times are currently as follows:

Junior and Senior Infants from 09:20 to 14:00

First to Sixth classes from 09:20 to 15:00

BREAK TIMES: 11:00-11:15 and 12:55-13.20

Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for pupils who are on the premises before 9:10 am. Parents should ensure that they, or the person collecting their child, be at the school no later than the relevant dismissal time above, as staff are not responsible for pupils after that time. In the case of children travelling by bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting the children from the school premises to the bus or from the bus to the school premises. Please remind your children to walk on the footpath when entering/leaving the school. In the interests of safety, ***no pupil whether accompanied by an adult or not*** should enter the school grounds through the staff car park.

THE CAR PARK IS FOR STAFF CARS ONLY

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: We will continue to use the Aladdin Connect app as a means of communication. You will be able to directly contact your child's teacher, explain absences, update your contact details and receive your child's school report on Aladdin Connect. Please download the Aladdin Connect app on your phone. Feedback on this app has been extremely positive.

Please ensure that we have your up-to-date details in the event of your child having an accident or becoming ill in school.

Should you have any query or concern about your child in school, please contact your child's class teacher as the class teacher is with your child most and is in a unique position to help you and your child.

Sacraments - First Communion and Confirmation: There are meetings on Thursday 28th September in the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane for parents of children wishing to participate in the Sacraments this year.

Parents/guardians of children for First Communion have a meeting at 7 pm, while parents/guardians of children wishing to make their Confirmation have a meeting at 8 pm.

As soon as we have dates for the Sacraments we will send them on to you.

Retirement: Mrs Marie Walsh has retired from our school. Mrs Walsh supported many children in her 10 years in St. Laurence's N.S. We wish her good health to enjoy a long and happy retirement. We thank her for her caring service to all our school community.

Parents Council: The Parents Council will hold their AGM on Monday 23rd October at 9.30am in the P.E. hall and all are welcome to attend. We will also run our annual fundraiser, the Hallowe'en walk on Friday 27th October. This year we will have a prize for each class for the best homemade costume so now is your time to start getting creative! Part of the funds raised will go towards some new blackboards for the yard together with some new lego and boards for all classes. Should anyone have some lego which they would like to donate please contact us on our email address below.

We have organised John Wills, a leading psychologist to attend the school on Tuesday 10th October. John will speak with children from 4th - 6th class about anxiety in everyday situations. We have also asked for John to speak with the Parents/Guardians (of all classes) that evening about anxiety and dealing with the same. We believe this talk will be invaluable in giving a better understanding of anxiety and providing useful tips and information to help our children. The talk will be held in the P.E hall at 7.30pm and we hope to see many of you there.

Should you have any queries or would like to volunteer for upcoming events we would love to hear from you at parentscouncil@sallinsns.ie

Pupil Insurance: As you may know we operate a 24 hour pupil insurance scheme with Allianz. This costs a very reasonable €6.40 and insures your child against medical expenses incurred should he/she have an accident. In such an event you may email the school to request a claim form.

EDUCATION ACT 2000: *Under this Act the Principal is **obliged by law** to report absences over 19 days to TUSLA. Parents/Guardians therefore must inform the class teacher when a child returns to school explaining the absence. Of course there may be times during the year when children are unwell and we ask that you keep them at home during these times. The roll is taken by 10.30 each morning and the children must be in school in order to be marked present. The attendance for children will not be changed due to appointments etc. but an explanation can be entered. If a child has been absent for*

10 days a text will automatically issue to parents/guardians informing them of their child's 10 days absence. As this is part of the Board of Management's Attendance Strategy, such texts are sent even in cases where the reasons for absences have been explained. As always we are available to meet, by appointment, to discuss any issues with attendance your child may have. If your child is absent from school for any reason please inform your child's class teacher. You may do this on the Aladdin Connect app or by writing a note.

***Yearly Calendar – can be accessed on our website. A limited number are available at Reception**

SPORTS: The new school year sees a new season of sports in the school, with Gaelic games, soccer and athletics already underway.

HEAD LICE

Headlice are an unpleasant aspect of school life. Please check your child's head regularly and should you notice headlice, **inform the class teacher**. A note will be sent to the parents of that class. It is important that you treat the problem promptly. If all infected heads are not treated properly, children will become re-infected and this is very unfair to them and most frustrating for their parents.

BEHAVIOUR: In order to allow teachers to teach effectively and pupils to learn it is important that each child's behaviour is of a high standard. Constant classroom disruption or serious misbehaviour is unfair to other pupils, unacceptable to school staff and will be dealt with accordingly.

Road Safety: As we settle into another school year, it is timely that we emphasise the importance of safe travelling to school. It is highly commendable to see the large number of children cycling, scooting and walking to school. However, we urge parents and guardians to ensure children wear the necessary safety equipment while travelling to school and to revise the Rules of the Road at home with your children. Please remind your children to cross the road outside the school with great care.

We also remind motorists to be extremely careful while driving/parking in the vicinity of the school. There are many young children walking and cycling to school and we urge all motorists to be vigilant while driving and/or parked/parking. Please obey all Rules of the Road in relation to driving and parking and be aware of pedestrians near cars. From time to time An Garda Síochana check the road/roundabout at the school for illegal and inconsiderate parking.

Kildare County Council has informed me that they are currently in the recruitment process for a school warden for us.

DOGS: At the start of the school year I would like to remind dog owners, that for health and safety reasons, dogs should not be brought into the school grounds under any circumstances . Parents are also asked to ensure that the family dog does not follow the children to school.

UNIFORMS: Our pupils looked very well as they returned to school in full uniform. I wish to thank them and you as parents for your co-operation and support on this matter. It is important that the full uniform is worn each day and that the effort being made at the beginning continues throughout the school year. We believe that wearing the uniform instils pride in our pupils and has a positive effect on behaviour. Should you require one, ties are available to purchase in school at a cost of €5. Please remember to label all your child's uniform and coat/jacket. Once again, thank you for your support.

LUNCHES: *A reminder to parents NOT to include eggs, sesame seeds, nuts or products containing nuts in your children's lunches. Several of our pupils have serious life-threatening allergies to these products. While it is not possible to have an entirely nut-free school as some items may contain traces of nuts, with everyone's co-operation we should have a safe environment for pupils. We ask you not to send in cakes, treats etc. for the class. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter. Please note that glass bottles or cartons are not permitted. Drinks containers with foil lids such as cartons cannot be closed/sealed once opened and therefore can easily spill. We would remind parents/guardians to continue encouraging healthy eating for your child by providing him/her with healthy lunches.*

FINALLY.....

I would like to wish all our pupils, parents/guardians and staff a safe and enjoyable school year!

Yours sincerely,

Íde Kelly
Principal