

SALLINS NATIONAL SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER/October 2023



DIARY DATES:

Wednesday 25th October	Election of parent nominees to Board of Management	Meeting at 8 pm in the PE hall
Friday 27th October	Hallowe'en Walk & early close	Jnr & Snr Inf finish - 1:45pm 1st– 6th classes finish - 2:00 pm
Monday 30th Oct. to Friday 3rd Nov.	Mid-Term Break	School closed
Week starting Monday 20th Nov.	Parent/Teacher Meetings	Times as booked on Aladdin Connect
Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd November 2023	Parents Council Clothing Collection – Collecting from Sallins Community Centre	Tues 21st: 9:00 am – 9:45 am Wed 22nd: 9:00 am – 9:45 am & 1:45 pm – 3:15pm
Wednesday 22nd November	Parent/Teacher Meetings	1st – 6th classes finish @ 2:45 pm
Junior & Senior Infant Christmas Plays	Tuesday 19th December	Room 1 – 09:45 Room 2 – 10:15 Room 3 – 10:45 Room 4 – 11:15 Room 6 – 11:45 Room 5 – 12:15

Hallowe'en Walk: For many years at Hallowe'en, pupils have dressed up on the Friday before the mid-term break. We then walked around the school or village to raise funds for the school. This year pupils may dress up on Friday 27th October in their Hallowe'en outfits for the Hallowe'en Walk. We hope it will be a fun occasion for everyone.

Parent/Teacher Meetings: Our annual formal parent/teacher meetings normally take place in November. This year the meetings will take place over two or three days. You will be able to book your child's parent/teacher meeting time using the Aladdin Connect app. We will inform you when booking will be open. The official parent/teacher meetings will take place on **Wednesday 22nd November** and therefore children from 1st to 6th class will finish 15 minutes before their usual time on that day.

Parents Council AGM: The Parents Council AGM will be held on Monday 23rd October in the PE hall at 9.30 am. All parents are welcome.

The Parents Council are currently looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please email them at parents.council@sallinsns.ie or let Ms Kelly know.

Teacher Supply: You may have heard in the news that teacher supply is a very real and serious issue for schools at the moment. We are no exception in this regard. We are currently trying to support all of our pupils as best we can and employ substitutes who are available in the event that a staff member is absent.

Food Collection in aid of Kildare Animal Foundation:

For many years now our school has supported Kildare Animal Foundation by running a pet food collection for the animals in their care. Kildare Animal Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the welfare of animals. They provide sanctuary and care for injured, sick and abused animals. Our past food collections have always been greatly appreciated by the volunteers at the Foundation, and of course by their furry friends!!

We will collect pet food again this year. If you wish to donate, food can be dropped at the PE hall entrance from Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th October.



Intel Mini-Scientist Exhibition: We are delighted to have our 5th & 6th classes participating in this year's Intel Mini-Scientist competition. Our pupils have been working very hard on their investigations over the past few weeks. On Wednesday 8th November we will welcome visitors from Intel who will review the investigations, and the pupils will get a chance to present their findings. The judges will select a group to bring their investigation to the regional finals later in the term. On Thursday 9th the pupils will get to present their investigations to some of the pupils from other classes. We would like to invite the parents of our 5th & 6th class pupils to come to the school on Thursday 9th November to view the investigations. This will be from 1:30-2:45pm in the PE Hall.

Thanks to all of the teachers and parents who have helped our pupils to carry out and put together their investigations. Best of Luck to all of our pupils.

Digital Learning: To celebrate EU Code Week 2023 all of our pupils engaged in different coding activities throughout the two week period. Some pupils enjoyed coding with our Lego WeDo Kits and our Bee Bots while others engaged in the Minecraft Hour of Code Challenge. All of our classes continue to work on creating digital books using Book Creator to support their learning in all areas of the curriculum. These digital books can be viewed on our school website in our digital learning area. We have also updated our ICT equipment by purchasing new laptops for our 3rd and 4th classes and tablets for our 1st and 2nd classes which will further support the development of our pupil's digital skills.

Primary Debating Festival: This year our school will once again take part in the Primary Debating Festival in association with Kildare Education Centre. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children involved to develop their writing skills and confidence in public speaking while learning about various interesting issues through their research. We wish the team well and hope it is an enjoyable experience for them all.

NEPS (National Educational Psychological Services): NEPS has informed me that we do not currently have a NEPS psychologist assigned to our school. We will continue to support all children in the school. If we are assigned a NEPS psychologist later in the year I will inform you.

Rainy Day Collections: As the year progresses from autumn into winter I ask that parents/guardians who are collecting children by car from the school, at 2pm and 3pm, to please be mindful of pedestrians, other road users and rules of the road. Please leave space for the buses to park and help keep traffic flowing at the bus turning point (roundabout).

Cross Country: Our cross country season got off to a great start as pupils from 5th and 6th Class took part in a competition in Celbridge on the 12th of October. Their hard work and dedication in the weeks leading up to the event paid off as the girls team placed first overall and the boys team came in second place overall. Individually, Leah Angland and Eibhlín Humphreys finished in 1st and 2nd

place respectively, while Noah O'Brien finished in 3rd place. It was an outstanding result for all of our athletes and we are very proud of their achievements. We'd like to extend a big thank you also to Derek McConnon for his expertise and guidance at training and on the day itself. For more information and photos check out our blog post written by 6th class on our school website.

Road Safety: A reminder to motorists and pedestrians to exercise care and caution when travelling to and from the school. This is especially important as winter approaches and the mornings and evenings become darker thus reducing visibility.

Healthy Eating: I wish to remind you to support your child/ren by giving them good food-value lunches to eat in school. Please do not give sweets, chocolate, biscuits or cakes on a regular basis as it is not good for them in the short-term and does not help establish healthy eating patterns for life.

Mornings: I would like to remind parents and guardians that children should not be at the school too early in the mornings. As winter rolls in, the mornings are more likely to be cold and wet, so please ensure your child does not come to school too early. School starts at 9.20 am.

Thank You: I would like to take this opportunity to say 'THANK YOU' to all the pupils, parents, staff and the wider school community for their hard work and co-operation in making our first half term such a success. We look forward to continuing our support of each other in order to ensure that school remains a place of learning, nurture, comfort and enjoyment for everyone, but particularly so for our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Íde Kelly
Principal

