



ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL  
SALLINS

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## Newsletter – December 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### Diary Dates:

<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Rag Day for St. Vincent de Paul	
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Junior & Senior Infant Christmas Plays	Room 1 – 09:45 Room 2 – 10:15 Room 3 – 10:45 Room 4 – 11:15 Room 6 – 11:45 Room 5 – 12:15
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Early Close as follows: <b>12:00</b> – Junior & Senior Infants <b>12:15</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> classes	Start of Christmas Holidays
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	Return to school	

**JUNIOR INFANT ENROLMENT:** Enrolment forms for our three Junior Infant classes for the 2024-2025 school year will be available on our school website at [www.sallinsns.ie](http://www.sallinsns.ie) or alternatively from our school office from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. They must be returned to the school by **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. The school's Admission Policy is available on the school website.

**HALLOWE'EN WALK:** On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual Hallowe'en walk. Pupils and staff dressed up for the day and we had many, many wonderful, weird and inventive costumes. Thank you to all in our school community for entering into the spirit of the occasion! The Hallowe'en Walk is our Parents Council main fundraising event of the year. This year it raised a fantastic amount of €9,412! Thank you for supporting this event so well.

**RAG DAY:** We held a Rag Day for our local St. Vincent de Paul Society on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils wore their own clothes on the day and we suggested a donation of €2.50 which could be made through our contactless payment. So far €2,272.50 has been raised for the St. Vincent de Paul.

**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.

**MINI-SCIENTIST:** Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Intel Mini-Scientist event this year. It was wonderful to see the great work on show and the teamwork it took to get that far. Also a special thanks to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class teachers, Mr Kennedy, Kevin and the SNAs for all their effort in organizing and facilitating this wonderful event.

The winners were Leah Angland, Ciara Dagg and Molly Sinnamon with “Does Colour Affect Taste?”. The school winners are heading to D.C.U. on 13<sup>th</sup> December. The runners up were Amelia O’Keeffe, Millie Ward, Saoirse Scott and Emily Strappe with “Does Personality Affect Choice?”. Well done to everyone who took part this year, much work and learning went into all the projects.

**PRIMARY DEBATING:** Our school debating team recently took part in their first debate against Scoil Mhuire, Ballymore Eustace. The motion for the debate was 'Getting rid of plastic pollution in our oceans is just a dream' with Sallins NS proposing the motion and Scoil Mhuire NS in opposition. Our sixth and fifth class pupils watched this debate and it proved to be a very interesting and educational experience for all involved. The team worked very hard researching, writing and presenting their speeches and our chairperson Aidan did a fantastic job! Scoil Mhuire was victorious on the day. Well done to our team, Lucy, Rachael and Emily from sixth class.

**CAMOGIE:** Our Senior Camogie team had a wonderful season this year, topping the Division 1 table by beating all 3 Naas schools! (St Marys, Scoil Bhride and Gaelscoil Nas na Riogh). We then played Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich in the semi final with a home advantage and had a comfortable win. The final took us to Moorefield on November 8th where we fought out a close game against Clane, but unfortunately we came up short by just 2 points. Great credit due to all the girls who showed great commitment and determination throughout the season.

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:** I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the outgoing Board of Management for their work and support of the school and its pupils.

The new Board members are Breda Fay (Chairperson), Íde Kelly (Secretary), John Boland (Community Nominee), Fr. Alex Kochett (Patron’s Nominee), Brian McEllin (Treasurer/Parent Nominee), Sharon McKenna (Teacher Nominee), Trish McGibney (Parent Nominee) and Bernie Johnston (Community Nominee).

We thank them for their interest in and commitment to the school. We look forward to working together for the next 4 years.

**STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE:** The Student Council has gotten off to a busy start this school year designing and completing a new Outdoor Sensory/Mud Kitchen Play area. We used the funds raised from our very successful bake sale last June to purchase two mud kitchens. We also bought timber that Kevin transformed into an enclosed area complete with a large sand pit. We officially opened it in October and it has been a big hit with all classes from Junior Infants to 6th class. Thank you again to everyone who contributed in some way to the bake sale, and to Kevin and his exceptional carpentry skills. Check out our photos from the grand opening on the school website.

**INFANTS CHRISTMAS PLAYS:** It is that time of the year again. We are delighted to inform you that our infants Christmas plays will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We know that you will be charmed when you see your child on the stage. These plays really signify that Christmas is only around the corner.

**PUPIL ILLNESS:** Please keep your child at home if she/he is unwell. This will help to reduce possible transmission of various illnesses.

**SCHOOL WARDEN:** We are delighted to welcome Cheryl Reilly as our new school warden. We will all feel much better knowing she is there to guide the children safely across the road.

**TRAFFIC/ROAD SAFETY:** Please remind your child to cross any road safely using traffic lights or a traffic warden where possible. Please drive slowly and carefully in the vicinity of the school. Where possible, please arrange with your child a suitable place to meet to help lessen congestion at the school.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND PRESENTS:** A reminder that, as Christmas is an expensive time for parents, staff do not expect presents. I would also like to remind you that pupils wishing to exchange cards and presents should do so outside of school hours. This avoids hurting the feelings of children who are not included.

Yours sincerely,

Íde Kelly  
Principal