



# ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

*Scoil Naomh Lorcán*

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**April 2024**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## DIARY DATES:

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday	School Closed
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	In-Service on new Primary Maths Curriculum	School Closed
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff Meeting	<b>Early Close</b> 1:45 pm – Jnr & Snr Infants 2:00 pm – 1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Classes
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	First Communion	10:00 - Ms McCormack – Rm 12 11:30 – Ms Carey – Rm 25 13:00 – Ms Molyneaux/Ms Hill - Rm 13
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June & Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Bank Holiday	School Closed
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Start of Summer Holidays	<b>Early Close</b> 12:00 – Junior & Senior Infants 12:15 – 1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Classes

**Well-Being Survey:** Recently we gave you all a well-being survey to complete. Thank you for doing so. We received a reply from 75% of families which we were delighted with. The results have been hugely positive with guides for improvements. Our next step is to get feedback from the student body itself. When all data has been collected we will see what improvement we will strive to make. Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

**Wellness & Friendship Week:** Last week Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April we introduced friendship week in the school. The children were very enthusiastic and the Student Council addressed the school daily with beautiful words of kindness and friendship. The children designed friendship posters and engaged in a variety of activities including a garden walk and talk between year groupings. Children were encouraged to be kind to others in class and playtimes and house points were awarded for kindness. Our Cineáltas flag was raised on Friday.

Many thanks to all involved including the children, social committee, Mr McDonnell, Ms Stapleton, Ms Dunning and all the school community!

**Aladdin Connect:** As you know we use the Aladdin platform to facilitate communication between you, parents, and the school.

Early Leave/Late Arrival: We would encourage parents to put an advance notice on the Aladdin Connect/Attendance when collecting early or arriving late. **This advance notice is important for the safety and security of your child and will also speed up the process.** It allows the parent/guardian to give a valid explanation (in their own words) for the early leaving/late arrival of their child. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.

**Uniform for Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class Pupils from September 2024:** Over the last while the possibility arose of children in junior infants, senior infants and first class wearing the school tracksuit every day. This pilot may be run from September 2024 for the stated classes. We are currently seeking opinion from the parents of the pupils involved. If this pilot goes ahead and is successful there is a possibility of it being extended to more pupils.

**Restructuring of Current Senior Infants and Fourth Class:** Forms have been sent via Aladdin to parents so they can talk to their children about naming some children for consideration in the restructuring of the classes for next year.

**Litter:** It has come to our notice that there has been a large increase in litter at the front of the school. The litter which has increased has been types of cigarette butts, chewing gum and coffee cups. If you have litter please bring it home.

**Safety near the School:** If driving near the school, please remember to go slowly. Also when parking please do not park where it makes it unsafe for children to cross the road or traffic to pass by.

**Digital Learning:** Over the past two weeks the children from First to Sixth Class have been busy constructing a wide variety of interactive models such as rollercoasters and ferris wheels using the Lego Spike Essentials kits which we borrowed from Kildare Education Centre. The Lego Spike engages the children in coding while encouraging them to think critically to solve complex problems through the playful medium of lego. The children are developing the essential STEAM and 21st century skills needed to become the innovative minds of tomorrow! Our senior classes were delighted to help our junior classes with their projects and it was wonderful to see such fantastic teamwork. Well done to all of the children!

**Internet Safety:** The winners of our Safer Internet Day Poster Competition are Harry Healy, Cormac Weldon, Robin O' Neill, Tadhg Cowin and Aoibhinn Woulfe. The winning posters will be displayed on our website in the digital learning area.

**Primary Debating:** Our Primary Debating Team received their certificates from Kildare Education Centre for taking part in the Concern Primary Debating Festival. Well done to Rachael Roberts, Lucy Hoban, Emily Mahon and Aidan Cunningham who showed great talent, teamwork and the confidence to stand up and be heard.

## **Sports:**

**Girls Football** - The U13 girls Gaelic football team has kicked off this year's summer league with incredible energy. We were thrilled to have 37 girls from 5th and 6th class sign up, eager to represent the school on the football field. It's been heartening to witness so many girls trying football for the first time, diving into the sport with enthusiasm. The girls have been putting in a great effort, training each week in preparation for the league matches.

Our journey in the league has been quite eventful with three thrilling games so far. Despite a tough match against Rathangan resulting in a narrow 3-4 to 3-2 loss, the girls showcased impressive determination. In Newbridge, amidst rain, they delivered a stellar performance, triumphing over Scoil Mhuire with a score of 1-7 to 0-4. Their skills truly shone in their latest game against Gael Scoil Chill Dara, where they dominated with a remarkable 10-12 victory.

As we eagerly anticipate the league's outcome, we keep our hopes high for a spot in the semi-finals.

**U12 Boys Football** –The senior boys have qualified for the Division 2 semi-final after wins over Caragh and Scoil Choca Naofa, Kilcock.

**U10 Boys Football** – There was great excitement as our under 10 boys took to the field for the first time in Sallins N.S. colours. We had 3 tough games against the Gaelscoil in Kilcock, Scoil Uí Fhiach, Maynooth and Caragh N.S. Although we could not quite get the results this time, the boys finished very strongly and won the second half in all of them.

**Boys Soccer** - The boys 5-a-side recently had a great performance in Newbridge Town AC narrowly losing to Rathangan after beating St. Corbans.

**Girls Soccer** – Huge congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> class girls 5-a-side soccer team who were crowned winners at the Kildare Primary 5's County Finals this week. The girls advance to the Mid-Leinster Finals which will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> may in Portlaoise. The girls topped the table in their first two blitzes and we wish them the very best of luck in the next round.

**Hurling & Camogie:** The U12 hurling and camogie will start in May.

Yours sincerely,

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Íde Kelly  
Principal

