

ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Scoil Naomh Lorcán

Phone 045 879119

NEWSLETTER - June 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

SUMMER HOLIDAYS: School will close on **Friday, 28th June** for the summer holidays. School will re-open on **Thursday 29th August 2024**.

Staff: Staff member Ms Susanne Martin is leaving us and we thank her for her years of caring service. We wish her all the best in her new ventures. Ms Clodagh Kenny, Mr David Kelly and Ms Caoilfhionn Dempsey will be on career break next year and we wish them a safe and happy year.

Sixth Class: We will be saying goodbye to our present 6th class pupils in just a few hours. Our 6th class pupils have had their last tour, sports day, school leaver's mass and their first colour reveal day! They are a credit to themselves, to you as their parents and to our school as ambassadors out in the wider world. We wish happiness and success for all of our 6th class pupils as they continue on their life's journey.

Pupils Leaving: If your child *is not returning to our school* for the coming school year please let us know in writing as soon as possible. This is very important as we prepare class lists for 2024/2025.

Rag Day: The Rag Day held in May in support of Down Syndrome Ireland raised €1637.46. Thank you for your support.

Parents Council: I would like to thank the Parents Council for their help and support this year. The support the Parents Council gives to the school is not taken for granted and it helps to further enrich children's experience in school. Members of the Parents Council give a lot of time, energy and caring each year all for the pupils in the school. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

The Parents Council would like to thank you for your support during the year. The Parents Council always welcomes new volunteers. Below are some of the activities the Parents Council supported with your generous donations for this school year.

- **Halloween Walk**
- **Cycle workshop for 5th Class**
- **Communion Teas/Coffees**
- **End of school year ice-creams**
- **Drumming Workshop**
- **Gymnastics Classes**
- **Contributed to the House Colour Reveal Day**
- **Organised Parent Talks**

Our email address is **parents.council@sallinsns.ie**. Please get in touch if you would like to join the team or even if you are available to volunteer for some events for the school year ahead. Wishing you and your families a lovely summer!

Multicultural Day: On Friday 14th June we hosted a multicultural celebration in our school. In the P.E. hall we had stands from 20 countries, from all around the world, showcasing elements of their culture and heritage; from food to clothes, sport to language and so much more. Parents and students gave so generously of their time and knowledge to broaden the experiences of the whole school community, in relation to the cultures represented in our school. All of the classes got to travel 'around the world' using their own 'passports'. We welcomed parents in to visit the displays in the afternoon. Our school band, choir and Irish dancers provided wonderful entertainment throughout the day, incorporating traditional Irish music with a little bit of Spanish. Children throughout the school wore traditional costumes, country colours, county and club colours. In many classes children brought in 'Show and Tell' highlighting aspects of their culture and heritage. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the parents, teachers and children for their involvement in the event and to those who visited on the day.

Active School Committee: Active school week took place from 17th - 21st June. The sun was shining during this energetic week, full of activity and fun. Junior Infants to Sixth Class took part in a wide variety of activities that included novelty races, parachute games, orienteering, active walks, table tennis, hula hooping, skipping, elastics, penalty shootouts, basketball shootouts, rounders and dodgeball. The adults in the school even joined in on the fun competing in the Staff Steps Walking Challenge. We look forward to another jam packed week next year full of activities for both children and adults in the school to enjoy. Remember, Get Active, Get Fit, Your Body Needs It!

Sports:-

Hurling: Our Hurling teams saw several new players take up the game for the first time. In our autumn U13 competition we played two group games, we were beaten by two strong teams but put in good performances on both days.

Our summer U12 competition brought us to Ardcough where, after a tight first half, Ardcough managed to get two quick goals and finished the game stronger. We then welcomed Cooleragh and Cappagh to Sallins GAA. Our team was boosted by a number of 3rd class boys who joined us. A strong Cooleragh side, who topped the group, got the better of us, but a brilliant battle against Cappagh went down to the wire. With excellent goal scoring, tackling and blocking out the field and brilliantly brave goalkeeping between the posts, the lads were very unlucky to be pipped in the last couple of minutes.

The enthusiasm, commitment and bravery from all of the players involved this year was extremely impressive. So many players have begun to really enjoy hurling and we would encourage them all to get playing with Sallins GAA and we look forward to our next competition in September.

A big thank you to all of the school staff and the parents who helped out with hurling and all of our sporting activities this year. ***Scoil Naomh Lorcán Abú!!***

Athletics: We have closed out another fantastic year for our Cross Country and Athletics teams! On 28th of May, children from 4th, 5th and 6th class took part in a great day of athletics in Celbridge Athletic Club. Well done to all who took part and competed on the day. The great spirit and encouragement from the group made for a thoroughly enjoyable day. In total, we took home an incredible 25 medals in both individual and team events. In 6th class, Eibhlín Humphreys won gold in the 800m, Lorcan Grimes took silver in the 100m, and the boys team of Lorcan Grimes, Tola Gahan, Evan Mooney and Jacob McGilloway came in 1st place in the relay. In 5th class, Annabel Lydon came in 2nd place in both the 80m and 600m, while Erin McGovern took bronze in the 80m. The 5th class boys relay team of David Stoika, Dylan Thomas, Ka Hin and Riain Plunkett also finished in 1st place. In 4th class, Jessica Doheny won gold in her 80m and 600m, Emma Corcoran got a silver medal in the javelin in addition to a bronze medal in the long jump, and the girls relay team of Leila Daramola, Jessica Doheny, Angelina Licciardello and Olivia Flanagan came in 1st place.

A big thanks to the coaches Ms. Stapleton, Ms. Shortall and Derek McConnon, as well as all the parents who supported on the day. We are all looking forward to another exciting year next year! Enjoy the summer break and don't forget to keep up some running – we'll be back training in September for our Autumn League.

Student Council Bake Sale: We had another hugely successful bake sale fundraiser event on Friday 31st of May with a record breaking amount of €2,032.45 raised. The Student Council are collaborating with their class groups on how best to spend these funds for the benefit of all our students. We would like to express a sincere thank you to everyone who baked, bought and sold the treats on the day. Without the support and tremendous effort of our whole school community this wouldn't have been possible, so thank you!

Brigid Sings Workshops & Performances: As part of the Brigid Sings project led by Sing Ireland and Music Generation and supported by the Kildare Arts Office, every class in the school had the opportunity to take part in wonderful singing workshops in June. Members of the National Youth Choir facilitated the engaging workshops which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. In preparation, the children had learned the song 'Army of the young' especially written for the project by Lea Heart, a past pupil of ours. To everyone's delight, the children had the opportunity to meet and sing with Lea as part of the workshops. Lea also kindly visited classrooms, answering questions and engaging with our starstruck children, which was much appreciated.

The school choir also had a moment in the spotlight with Lea Heart when they performed alongside her during the Brigid Sings Concert in St. Brigid's Cathedral in Kildare on Saturday, 7th June. The choir were so excellent on the day that they also supported Sive, a singer songwriter from Naas with her song 'Lighthouse'. We were all extremely proud of both their performance and behavior on the day. We would like to thank Ms Owens, Ms Crowther and Ms Breen for their work with the choir this year. We would also like to thank one of our parents, Jenny O'Connor-Madsen, who was instrumental in bringing these opportunities to our children.

House Colour Day: This school year we began our House Colour initiative to promote kindness in our school. All year the boys and girls have been earning tokens for their house colour when they showed kindness and good cheer. We had a wonderful day on Wednesday celebrating all our houses. Thank you to all involved in making our colourful parade and festivities in the GAA pitch so special.

Congratulations to the green house who were the winners this year. They received an ice-pop and time in the garden today and were so grateful for their reward which showed their 'true colours'. We look forward to building on the House Colours initiative next year to spread more kindness and goodwill.

Schoolbooks: As you may be aware, the Department of Education provides free schoolbooks, workbooks and copies for all primary school children. Funding has been given directly to schools so that the necessary books are in the school for the start of the year. The schoolbooks remain the property of the school so they may be re-used in future years. Children from 1st class upwards will need to supply their own pencils, pens, etc.

Calendar: The school calendar has been emailed to you and is on the school website. Copies are also available from school reception.

Class List: The class list has also been emailed to you and will be on the school website.

School Uniform: Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st classes will have the option of wearing the full school uniform or the school tracksuit each day. Children from 2nd to 6th class will be expected to wear the uniform as usual, wearing the tracksuit on PE days. The correct school uniform, which is widely available, must be worn in school. We have ties available from the school office, costing €5, should you need them.

I am taking this opportunity to thank pupils, parents and staff for their work and support this year.

.....and finally, I would like to wish all pupils, parents and staff a safe and happy summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all after the break.

Yours sincerely,

Íde Kelly
Principal