

SALLINS NATIONAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER/October 2024



DIARY DATES:

Friday 25th October – Friday 15th November incl.	Application Period for Junior Infants 2025-2026	
Friday 25th October	Hallowe'en Walk & Early Close	Jnr & Snr Inf finish - 1:45pm 1st – 6th classes finish - 2:00 pm
Monday 28th Oct. to Friday 1st Nov.	Mid-Term Break	School closed
Thursday 14th & Friday 15th November	Parents Council Clothing Collection – Collecting from Sallins Community Centre	Thurs 14th: 9:00 am – 9:45 am Fri 15th: 9:00 am – 9:45 am & 1:45 pm – 3:15pm
Week starting Monday 18th November	Parent/Teacher Meetings	Times as booked on Aladdin Connect
Wednesday 20th November	Parent/Teacher Meetings	1st – 6th classes finish @ 2:45 pm

Hallowe'en Walk: For many years the Parents Council has organised the Hallowe'en walk. On the Friday before the mid-term break the pupils and staff dress up and walk around the school or village to raise funds for the school. This year pupils may dress up on Friday 25th October in their Hallowe'en outfits for the Hallowe'en Walk. We hope it will be a fun occasion for everyone. This year €3,000 of the walk proceeds will be spent improving sensory activities for our pupils.

Meeting Teachers: This is a reminder that if you wish to discuss an idea or concern with your child's teacher, please make an appointment to meet with the teacher. You may make an appointment by sending a message on Aladdin to your child's teacher or by phoning the school.

Forgotten Items: If your child leaves a lunch, gear, keys or something else at home and you bring it to the school, please leave the item with the school secretaries in the office. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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. We do not currently have all the teaching posts fully filled.

Official 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 20th November** and therefore children from 1st to 6th class will finish 15 minutes before their usual time on that day.

Parents Council: The Parents Council AGM was held on Wednesday 16th October in the PE hall at 7 pm. Thank you to everyone who attended, it was lovely to see you all.

Our new board for 2024/2025 are:- Chairperson – Claire Henry, Vice Chairperson – Deirdre Flanagan, Treasurer – Blathnaid Redmond, Secretary – Gavin Brangan, Communications – Simona Di Magno.

We wish to thank Ann Marie O'Brien, Elaine McEllin, Olywn Nunn and Lynn Buckley who all stepped down this year, for all their hard work and ideas over the last couple of years.

Our biggest fundraiser **The Halloween Walk** will take place on **Friday 25th October**, €3,000 from the walk will go towards some new equipment for the Sensory Room and we hope to update some of the gymnastics equipment with any additional funds raised.

We run a **walking bus** each Friday morning from the playground gate through the all weather pitch to the school yard. To continue with the bus we need your help. If you could spare 15 mins each Friday morning or even once a month, please get in touch by email parents.council@sallinsns.ie or we are in the yard most mornings. You will need to be Garda Vetted, and this Garda Vetting remains in place for 3 years. If we don't get more volunteers we will not be able to continue with the bus.

We have a **clothing collection** on Thursday 14th & Friday 15th November in the Community Centre. We will accept bags with clean clothes, shoes and toys from 9am – 9.30am on Thursday & Friday and 1.45pm – 3.15 pm on Thursday. All funds raised will go to the Parents Council and 10% of this will go to Laura Lynn in the name of St Laurence's School.

We have a new and exciting fundraising event taking place this year. It will be our first **school calendar**. We will have the calendar for sale in early December and it would make a lovely Christmas gift. Your support is always appreciated. More information to follow next month.

If you can spare an hour during this school year or have some ideas that can help us raise funds or any ideas that could enrich the children's school experience this year, we would love to hear from you. Our email is parents.council@sallinsns.ie

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.

Hot School Meals: Last week three classes sampled hot meals in school. We are in the process of getting feedback from pupils, parents and staff on these meals. We have not yet been approved for hot school meals but we are working away in the background in a bid to be ready when the time comes.

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 22nd to Thursday 24th October.

Dogs: Please ensure all dogs are kept on leads near the school as we have some pupils who have a fear of dogs. Thank you for your understanding.

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 Thursday 7th 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 Friday 8th 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 Friday 8th 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 2024 our pupils from First to Sixth Classes engaged in different coding activities throughout the week. Classes worked together to complete projects using the Lego Spike Essential Kits and also completed coding challenges using Minecraft Education on our school tablets. Our Fifth and Sixth Class pupils helped our First and Second Classes to complete their projects and our Student Digital Team did a great job maintaining and organising the equipment. It was lovely to see such teamwork going on throughout the school.

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: A fantastic day was had by our school's Cross-Country Team on the 10th of October in Celbridge. All the children ran fantastically and really did the school proud. Our girls team finished in an amazing 2nd place - a great achievement.

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.

I hope you have a lovely break from the school routine next week.

Kind regards

Íde Kelly
Principal

