



ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL  
SALLINS

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## Newsletter – November/December 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### Diary Dates:

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>     | Rag Day for St. Vincent de Paul  |  |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> | Junior & Senior Infant Christmas Plays   | Room 1 – 09:45<br>Room 2 – 10:15<br>Room 3 – 10:45<br>Room 4 – 11:15<br>Room 5 – 11:45<br>Room 6 – 12:15 |
| <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>    | Early Close as follows:<br><b>12:00</b> – Junior & Senior Infants<br><b>12:15</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> classes | Start of Christmas Holidays  |
| <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b> | Return to school   |  |

**RAG DAY:** We will hold a Rag Day for our local St. Vincent de Paul Society on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**PARENT'S COUNCIL:** A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our biggest fundraiser, the Halloween Walk, which took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. We raised €9,203.14. Thank you to everyone who donated, we really appreciate it. The rain held off on the day and everyone looked fantastic. We donated 4 x €20 Book Haven vouchers for the best homemade costume. There was some stiff competition this year. €3,000 from the walk will go towards some new equipment for the Sensory Room. We will update you further once we purchase the equipment.

We purchased 14 new gymnastic mats this week (1 mat between 2 children). The mats have arrived and the children will have lots of fun practicing the new gymnastic moves they learned earlier this year. A big thank you to Ms Byrne for sourcing the mats.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our clothing collection earlier this month. We raised €188.80 and a donation of €18.88 will go to Laura Lynn Children's Hospice in the name of our school.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November our current 6<sup>th</sup> class students went on the annual trip to the Bog of Allen Nature Center in Lullymore. This trip is part of the Science Curriculum under the strand "living things". The Parents Council covered the cost of this trip and a great day was had by everyone. We have just launched our new and exciting Kindness Calendar for 2025. The calendars are available for pre-order at €5 each through Aladdin. It would make a lovely Christmas Gift. Your support is always appreciated.

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](mailto:parents.council@sallinsns.ie) We are in the yard most mornings. You will need to be Garda Vetted. This process will take no more than 30 mins and you will be vetted for 3 years. If we don't get more volunteers we will not be able to continue with the bus. We have over 100 children going through each Friday.

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 kids' school experience this year, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at the above mentioned email address.

**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.

### **ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG:**

**Feet on Friday:** We are delighted to see so many children making a special effort to walk, cycle and scoot to school on Fridays. Each week we record the amount of children who come to school walking, cycling and scooting. There are prizes for the most active classes. It is great seeing so many children using the Walking Bus on Fridays accessing the school through the playground gate. Many thanks to The Parents Council for facilitating this Walking Bus.

**Active Break Every Day Challenge:** Classes are currently taking part in this four week challenge. These movement breaks between lessons are having a hugely positive impact on the teaching and learning in our classes by helping children adjust energy levels, restore concentration and self-regulate emotions.

**Santa Dash:** The Active School Committee are busy organising activities for our annual Santa Dash. Santa Dash will take place on Monday 16th December. On this day all classes will dance and sing to festive tunes around the school grounds.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Many thanks to Sallins GAA and our GPO Mark for facilitating a combination of football and hurling/camogie coaching sessions in school. These will continue for classes after Christmas. A special thanks to Leinster Rugby for facilitating tag rugby coaching sessions in school for classes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents Council for their very generous purchase of gymnastic mats for the school.

**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 Wednesday 18<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.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** It is winter time and the weather can be inclement. Parents, please ensure we have the correct contact details for you as messages will be sent from the school via Aladdin in the event of any school closures due to adverse weather conditions. It is also vital that we have the correct contact numbers for you in the event your child becomes unwell or has an accident in school.

**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