

St Laurence's NS Parents' Association NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025 edition

On Friday 4th April we held our first **Parents Association Disco** as a joint event with **Sallins GAA**.
We raised over **€2,100**, split between the two associations.

Almost 200 children, from **3rd to 6th class**, took part in over two parties.
It was a great success and both children and volunteers had a great time.

DJ Des was super fun and very engaging. You can contact him for all your events at **086-0223594**.



On the night no more than one paper cup per child was used, which was great for our 'green flag' targets. With help from the volunteers, the kids kept the area tidy and found their cups easily.

Thank You to Reilly's Supervalu, Sallins for sponsoring the paper cups



We couldn't have held our disco without the great support from around **30 parents and GAA volunteers**, and **our 4 First Aiders** manning our quiet / First Aid area.

Please consider volunteering to hold more discos in the future, especially if you have children in 3rd to 6th class. To become a volunteer, you will need to be **Garda vetted**: the process is **easy, fast and lasts for 3 years**. All information is on the school website at <https://sallinsns.ie/parents-council/>



We were thrilled to be awarded a **Life Credit Union** grant of **€4,500** towards the purchase of new gymnastics equipment, seen being used by some of the children in the pictures below. Fantastic work by our Treasurer **Claire Merity** for managing the application on behalf of the Parents' Association.

Members of **Life Credit Union** in **Monread Shopping Centre** will come to the school to talk to our 6th classes about important financial matters such as economic planning, savings, fiscal fraud and scamming.

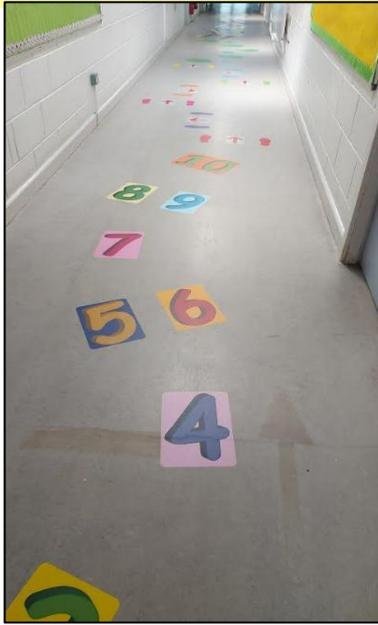
For further information please contact **Keith O'Brien, Business Development**, on **087 3496350** or visit <https://monreadshoppingcentre.ie/life-credit-union/>



Earlier this year the Parents Council invited educational psychologist, and therapeutic play trainer **Mireia Lopez** of **Discovery Playtime** to review the school's sensory facilities and layout.

Thanks to her help, and the guidance from the invaluable **SEN team**, we have sponsored an upgrade of occupational and play equipment. You can find out all about Mireia's services at: <https://discoveryplaytime.ie/>

As part of this project in April, we installed a brand-new **sensory trail**, commissioned to **Linda Maher** from **Halls of Fun**, a Naas-based company. Check out their website at www.hallsoffun.ie
The children can walk, hop, skip along this loop, engaging in a wide range of movements and having great fun in the process. Their feedback so far has been wonderful. Here are some photos of the new hallway.



We are very grateful to our supportive caretaker **Kevin Bagnell** for building our new **Parents Council notice-board**, installed near the main entrance gates. Hope you have checked it out.

No task is ever too big for Kevin, who is always so helpful and creative. His work on the school grounds is commendable, especially in the beautiful gardens.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT THE SCHOOL SECRETARIES' PENSION CAMPAIGN

Some of you may be aware that while School Secretaries & Caretakers have standardised terms & conditions and rates of pay from the Department of Education, they are NOT regarded as public servants and they are not included in the Public Servant Pension Scheme.

Over the coming months FORSA will spearhead a national campaign on the issue.

Please scan the QR Code to learn more about this important topic and get a sense of what it is all about.

Thank You to all the parents who in the past have supported us in trying to change this situation.

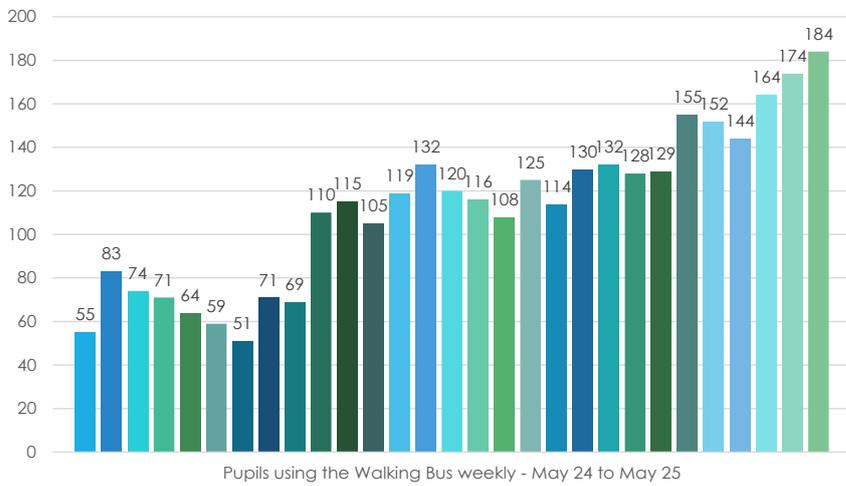
From St Laurence's NS secretaries and caretaker,
Marion, Bernie, & Kevin



Communion TEAS & TREATS

On Saturday, 24th May, we hosted our annual **Communion receptions**, appreciated by everyone who attended. The hall was beautifully decorated with the children's artwork, and the Parents Association served up teas and treats, with many thanks to 'The Cupcake Kitchen Ireland' for their generous donation of delicious cupcakes (please see <https://www.instagram.com/thecupcakekitchenireland/> for all your special occasions). A heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful volunteers whose time and effort made this event so heartwarming.





Our Walking Bus continued reaching record numbers.

Sergeant Muldowney, as well as Community Policing Officers Mo and Dee of An Garda Síochána Kildare, local councillors Carmel Kelly and Bill Clear, and local party rep Bob Quinn, supported us on the last two mornings of our pilot, in an effort to encourage children to walk to school safely and socially.

Parents' Council member **Gavin Brangan**, talked about this project on **KFM**. Please find below the interview (starting at 15:30 mins) and follow-up articles:

<https://www.kfmradio.com/on-air/podcasts/kildare-today1/episode/tuesday-may-27th-2025-hour-1/?autoplay=1>

<https://www.kfmradio.com/news/localnews/sallins-walking-bus-in-jeopardy-due-to-volunteer-shortage/>

<https://www.kildarenow.com/news/local-news/1817221/sallins-kildare-walking-bus-initiative-a-resounding-success.html>

The impact of diverting the children through the playground was noticed each week by Cheryl, our traffic warden, who saw a reduction in traffic on the Kerdiffstown Road on Friday mornings.

Special mention to **Gavin Brangan** and **Blathnaid Redmond** for leading on this initiative, making it a huge success for the community and an example to follow for the whole County.

And thank you to all the wonderful parents who volunteered to run the Walking Bus on Fridays for over a year.



The Walking Bus, Sallins



At the end of May, the Parents Council reviewed the year-long pilot and made the decision to pause it due to insufficient numbers of new volunteers manning the path weekly.

However, we are actively looking at alternative ways to reintroduce a 'walking to school initiative' again and we will bring you updates as soon as we have them.

Parents Council spending April/June 2025

Colour Parade activities	€380
Ice Cream Treats	€1,400
Communion & 6th Classes Teas	€300
Year End & Retiring Staff Gifts	€250
Sports equipment	€220
Sensory Hallway & equipment	€2,500

TOTAL €5,050

Tesco tokens

Thanks to the extended community who helped us collect Tesco tokens, and especially to our Treasurer, Claire Merity for managing this fundraiser. Deirdre Keating, Tesco Community Executive, confirmed that we were awarded €518, which will cover projects for the students in the new school year.

Kildare County Council funding

We applied to Kildare Co Community Grant Scheme and we are delighted to announce that we received **€2,400** to develop a **recreational and creative outdoor space**, for everyone to use. The project will meet our **biodiversity, green, and inclusion** goals.

The Parents Council is engaging expert advice from an architect to complete this project and we will keep you updated on its progress.

Special mention to **Gavin Brangan** for bringing this idea to life and over the line.

More information on the Community Scheme is at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Community/CommunityGrants/CommunityGrants/>

On Wednesday 11th June the sun was shining for the annual Parents Council **ICE CREAM** Treats. Junior Infants to 4th classes enjoyed cones and cups on the school grounds from Noel's ice-cream van of **Tiger Ice-Cream** (<https://www.tigericecream.com/>), while 5th and 6th classes relaxed in **Café Grange**, where Ciarán, Louis and Rory, had a great time serving plenty of gelato (<https://www.facebook.com/cafegrangesallins>).

Many thanks to Tiger Ice-Cream and Café Grange for providing these refreshing treats to celebrate the end of another fulfilling school year for our children.



BEST WISHES to all 6th class students for a successful continuation of their studies in secondary school.

Thanks everyone for your continued support and community spirit.

We hope you enjoy a happy and restful summer and we'll see you all again in August.

The Parents Association

All photos shared with permission. To get in touch with us please e-mail parents.council@sallinsns.ie