

St. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL



Scoil Naomh Lorcán
Phone 045 879119

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 10th March	School Closed to Pupils	Óide Teacher In-Service in Primary Curriculum Framework
Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th March	School Closed	St Patrick's Day/Bank Holiday
Friday 27th March	Early Close as follows: Junior & Senior Infants finish at 12:00 1st-6th Classes finish at 12:15	Start of Easter Holidays
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	School Closed	Easter Holidays

Catholic Schools Week: During January, our school community joyfully celebrated Catholic Schools Week, which took place from 18th–24th January. This year's theme, "Normal Lives, Called to Holiness," inspired by Pope Francis, reminded us that holiness is for everyone. Through love, kindness, and small daily acts, we are all called to live out our faith in simple but meaningful ways.

Throughout the week, the children explored a range of special themes:

- Monday: Called to Holiness
- Tuesday: Living Holiness in Friendship
- Wednesday: Sharing Holiness with our Grandparents
- Thursday: Serving the Community with Holiness
- Friday: Sharing the Joy of the Gospel

These daily themes highlighted the importance of faith-based education, the vital role of grandparents and family in passing on the faith, and the mission of the Church within our local community. Children from 1st Class upwards attended Mass, celebrated by Father Robert, to mark this special week. It was a lovely opportunity for prayer and reflection together.

More recently, Father Robert also visited the school on Ash Wednesday. The children received their ashes during a short and meaningful service. We thank him most sincerely for his continued support and ministry within our school community.

School Uniforms: School uniforms or school tracksuits only should be worn in school on the appropriate days. Other clothes, e.g. leggings and branded tracksuits, which are not part of the uniform should not be worn into school at all. The only exception is if an additional layer is needed over the appropriate uniform.

Attendance: If your child is absent for any reason, please send a note to the class teacher either on Aladdin or in your child's homework diary explaining the reason for the absence.

Sacramental Dates:

	Date & Time	Classes	Venue
Sacrament of Confirmation	Saturday 28 th February 2026 ALL Classes @ 12 noon	Ms Shortall Ms Murphy Ms Hill	Our Lady & St. David's Church, Sallins Rd, Naas
Sacrament of Communion	Saturday 23 rd May 2026	Ms Kenny @ 10 am Ms Carey @ 11.30 am Ms Hartnett @ 1pm	Sallins Parish Church

Class Restructuring: Senior Infants and Fourth Class will be restructured at the end of this school year. You will be asked to fill in a form naming friends of your child, before the classes are restructured. More information will follow.

Staffing: As you may know there is a shortage of teachers available to us for subbing. In the event of a teacher or SNA absence we do our best to get a substitute. It is not always possible. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Active School Flag: On Friday 12th December all classes took part in our annual Santa Dash. Classes counted the number of elves and Christmas trees that were hidden on the school grounds. They followed the 12 Days of Fitmas and performed an activity at each station. The children answered some Christmas trivia questions and giggled at Christmas jokes while dancing, skipping, running and singing to festive tunes.

On Fridays we encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school as part of Feet On Fridays. We have weekly rewards for classes with the greatest number of participants. Our Active School slogan is Get Active, Get Fit, Your Body Needs It!!

Hot Lunches: Hot lunches provided by Bradburys started on 16th February. We have had a few settling in issues but they were quickly sorted. The children who are receiving the hot lunches have been overall very happy with this new initiative.

Healthy Eating: We encourage healthy eating in school in a bid to lay foundations for forming healthy choices going forward. A reminder that CRISPS, CHEWING GUM and FIZZY DRINKS are not allowed in school. Should you wish for your child to have treats, please keep them to an absolute minimum in school or give it to them at home.

Mini-Scientist: A big congratulations to the boys from Ms Kennedy's 5th class who attended the Grand Final at TUD Blanchardstown on Friday 13th February.

Presenting their investigation; '*How do Rockets Work?*', Alex, Jamie, Rían and Alex represented the school so well and impressed many with their investigation and knowledge. With almost 70 schools from around the country participating, the boys should be so proud of their efforts. A great day was had, with the boys being interviewed by local newspapers and even making it onto RTÉ's News2Day TV Show!

Well done to the boys, their parents and their teacher on this great achievement. A huge Thank You to all of the pupils and staff who put great work into the Mini-Scientist exhibition in Term 1!

Book Fair: The Book Fair was organised by the Parents Council on the 5th, 6th and 7th February. Each class received €76 to help augment the class library. Many thanks to the Parents Council and parent volunteers for making the Book Fair and the pre-loved books sale so successful

Smart watches/devices: Recently some children have started to wear smart watches to school. While recognising the reasons some parents have for wanting their children to wear these devices, we have to keep the safety, protection and well-being of all pupils and staff to the fore.

Therefore similar to smart phones, students may bring smart watches to school *only* if the device is set to “school mode” (or equivalent) to ensure that alarms and notifications are disabled, and the watch must remain in the student’s bag for the duration of the school day. The watch may be put on again after the child leaves the school grounds.

Safety: I have noticed that some children and adults are walking through the carpark in the mornings. This is potentially dangerous and unsafe training for impressionable young children. Please use the pedestrian gate or the gate at reception to enter the school. Please be aware that children are not supervised in school before 9:10am.

Dogs: A reminder that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

Weather: Should adverse weather conditions force the school to close, parents will be notified by text or email. This will be done as soon as possible but a decision may have to wait until early morning as the school will only close, if absolutely necessary, on the grounds of safety. Hopefully we are getting to the stage where this will not be a concern.

Allergies: A reminder to parents **not** to include eggs, sesame seeds, nuts or products containing nuts in your children’s lunches. Several of our pupils have serious life-threatening allergies to these products. While it is not possible to have an entirely nut-free school as some items may contain traces of nuts, with everyone’s co-operation we should have a safe environment for pupils. Parents are also reminded that some foods are a choking hazard e.g. grapes, please make sure such items are cut into bite size pieces.

Yours sincerely,

Íde Kelly
Principal