

# St Laurence's NS Parents' Association NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026 Edition

## Faite Romhat chuig ár Nuacht Earraigh

Since coming back from our Christmas break, the Parents Association has been working ceaselessly to bring innovation and activities to all children in the school.

We try to keep the community updated through our social media channels on Facebook (St Laurence's NS, Sallins - Parents Association) and Instagram (st\_laurence\_ns\_sallins\_pa), so please follow us if you'd like to know what's happening in the school in real time.

All pictures and names used with permission  
[parents.council@sallinsns.ie](mailto:parents.council@sallinsns.ie)



## Park N Stride

### A Small Change with Big Benefits for Our Children

On 18th March, we proudly launched Park N Stride, a first of its kind initiative in County Kildare, led by our dedicated Parents Association and supported by our Green Schools Committee Leader and School Principal.

Since October, the Parents Association has worked diligently to bring this initiative to life. With thanks to Kildare County Council and the Parish, designated parking locations beside Gala and the Parish Church car park, will provide safe starting points on either side of the town.

Park N Stride encourages families to park a short distance from the school and walk the final few minutes together, helping to reduce congestion, improve safety and promote active travel in line with our Green Schools goals.

The launch marked an important and positive milestone for our school community, and Thank You to everyone who supported and participated in making this such a memorable occasion for our school community.



We held a poster competition for the Park N Stride Launch and were extremely impressed by the creativity shown by our students. Congratulations to our overall winner, Allysa Azcunna (Ms Kennedy's class), and to runners-up Ruby O'Keeffe & Emma Behan (Mr Monahan's class) and Hannah Flanagan & Róisín Smith (Ms O'Regan's class).

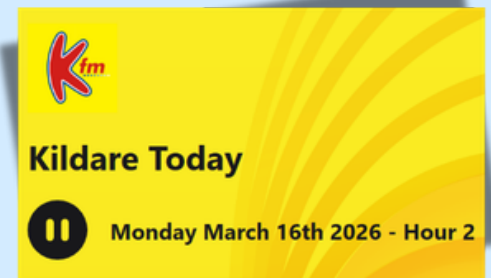
Allysa's winning poster can be seen at the designated car park locations.

*Pictured here are from Left to Right are Emma, Ruby, Allysa, Roisin and Hannah*

Just ahead of the launch on 18<sup>th</sup> March, our Chairman, Gavin Brangan, talked to KFM about the importance of Park N Stride.

Gavin also highlighted the community spirit in Sallins through the many other initiatives we have, as well as the ongoing traffic safety challenges we experience.

If you missed it, please listen to Gavin, from 33:00 minutes, on the KFM Kildare Today Podcast from Monday March 16th 2026 - Hour 2 (<https://www.kfmradio.com/on-air/podcasts/kildare-today1/>)



### School community-led Park & Stride initiative launched in Kildare

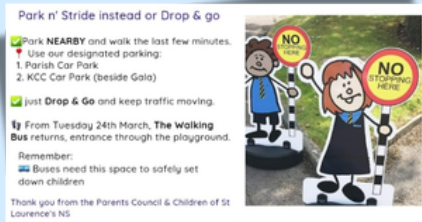
The initiative was launched this week in Sallins, Co Kildare  
[www.kildarenow.com](http://www.kildarenow.com)

A reminder that Park N Stride is an everyday initiative, not just a one-time event.

Thank you all for a fantastic start with over 90% participation. We hope you will continue to support it.

Please read more about it here too  
<https://www.kildarenow.com/news/local-news/2042599/school-community-led-park-stride-initiative-launched-in-kildare.html>

# Walking Bus



The Walking Bus (supervised entrance to the school yard in the mornings via Sallins Playground) started again on Tuesday 24th March, between 9.05 and 9.15 to run every day until the end of the year.

When the Walking Bus was last run, we had 180 students walking through the playground gates on a Friday.

This year, one school staff member will help children cross from the astro pitch side to the junior yard, and one Parents Association volunteer will assist them at the playground gate.

We sincerely hope this will be another step in the right direction, adding to the success of the Park'n'Stride initiative.

## Our Annual Book Fair and Pre-loved books Sale

Our annual Book Fair was another great success this year.

So many happy children brought home their favourite titles and great bargains too, from our pre-loved books section. Special mention to our Vice-chair, Deirdre, for organising the pre-loved section from start to finish !

We raised funds for each class to renew their individual libraries and, hopefully, helped foster a love of reading amongst all children. Additionally, we took in over €500 to continue funding the School Garden enhancement.

As always we couldn't have done it without the help of our amazing volunteers.

Thanks to all the families who visited at collection times too.



## School Garden Enhancement Project

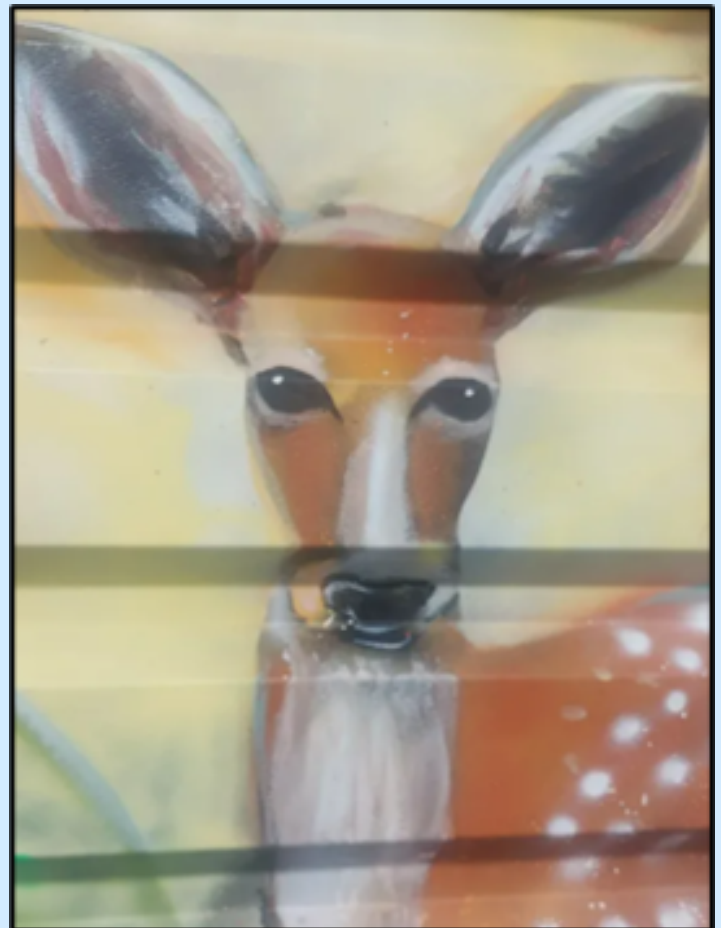
... is blooming beautifully thanks to the fantastic support of our local community.

The Beautiful Garden mural was recently completed by local artist Cian Mekitarian (@Cianmekart) adding colour and creativity to our space, thanks to Sallins Tidy Towns.

Biodiversity garden signage, as well as music equipment for our musical corner, both kindly supported by Sallins Tidy Towns also, are due for delivery soon.

We are also grateful to Sallins Women's Shed for their generous gift of decorative kindness stones, which will add a special touch to the garden.

Keep tuned in for more updates!



## 'Our World' Inclusion Fair

The Parents Council was delighted to host the 'Our World' Inclusion Fair for 2nd and 3rd classes in March.

The children talked about uplifting concepts such as fairness, creativity, diversity, inclusion, and kindness.

They had wonderful comments, questions, and ideas and very much enjoyed interacting with the beautiful collection of diversity dolls kindly lent to us by Maynooth Access Group.

Many thanks to our principal, Ms. Kelly, and all the class teachers and SNAs for their support and engagement; to Shauna, Maria, Anne and Simona from the Parents Association for facilitating it; and to Co Kildare Access Network for supporting such initiatives.



# The Reading Initiative

The Reading Initiative is a volunteer-led programme that supports literacy development within the school and is coordinated in partnership with the Vice Principal.

During this term, reading support sessions were delivered to 2nd Class. Volunteer participation is organised on a weekly basis to ensure sufficient coverage for each session.

The programme is designed to provide pupils with additional one-to-one reading time, helping to develop confidence, fluency and enjoyment of reading.

The initiative commenced earlier in the school year and has now concluded for the term.

We will continue to expand the programme to include additional classes, particularly in light of increased volunteer availability.

If you would like to join as a volunteer please reach out.

Reading takes place on Friday mornings for a set number of weeks. Even 1 hour of your time every so often would be greatly appreciated and so beneficial to the children. If you are not already Garda Vetted, please start the process now by contacting the Parents Association.

Special thanks to our Secretary, Maria Quinn, who leads this initiative and to the continued support from our Deputy Principal, Ms Niamh Fitzpatrick.

## What else ? ...

- We held another pre-loved books collection, which were very successfully sold at our **Book Fair**
- We trialled a pre-loved **Communion** clothes collection, passing them onto very deserving children
- We welcomed our cashless machine, **Tappy-bert** to the team
- We held a **BOP before school** in the yard, ahead of the Spring mid-term for some dancing fun
- We fundraised €22 and saved 123 bottles and cans from landfill thanks to all the kind donations to fill up our **recycling bin Duncan**
- We had a '**dress in green rag day**' ahead of the St Patrick's celebration for all school children
- We reached out to businesses for donations for our upcoming **Online Auction Fundraiser** (watch this space and if you can donate time, vouchers, memorabilia, etc. to contribute to it, please let us know: [parents.council@sallinsns.ie](mailto:parents.council@sallinsns.ie))