

St Laurence's NS Parents' Association NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026 Edition

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

A huge thank you to **Sallins Tidy Towns** and **Sallins Women's Shed** for their fantastic partnership and contribution to the school sensory garden.

Special mention to the **Waterways Hotel** for their generous donation of outdoor equipment.

Thank you to **Tiger Ice-Cream van** and **Café Grange, Sallins** for their treats to all school children on 22nd June. A much-loved tradition, the day was a sweet reward for the children's hard work throughout the year.

Thank you to our entire school community, especially to our **Principal Ms Kelly**, our **Deputy Principal Ms Fitzpatrick**, our admin staff **Marion, Bernie, Jo**, our school caretaker, **Kevin** and our traffic warden **Cheryl** for your continued support and community spirit throughout the year.

We wish everyone a happy summer break.

All pictures and names used with permission
parents.council@sallinsns.ie

Parents Association Survey

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Parents' Association survey earlier this year, led by our Treasurer Pamela. We received **153 responses**, almost 47% of families, giving us valuable insight into what matters most to our school community.

Survey responses highlighted afterschool activities as the top priority for parents, prompting discussions with the Principal about possible future options. Strong support was also shown for student wellbeing and yard improvements, and we are delighted that sufficient funds have now been raised to begin progressing these plans.

Sensory equipment will be on the agenda in the new year, while parents also expressed interest in talks, workshops, and a variety of community activities such as music groups, bake sales, arts projects, and Christmas cards. The wide range of suggestions provided valuable guidance for future Parents' Association initiatives.

While all suggestions are considered, future initiatives must be balanced with available funding, Garda vetting, and volunteer capacity. The success of the Parents' Association is only possible thanks to the dedication and support of our volunteers, and we would warmly welcome more parents to get involved and help bring new ideas and activities to life next year.



The Reading Initiative

We are delighted to announce that our much-loved Reading Initiative will return in September.

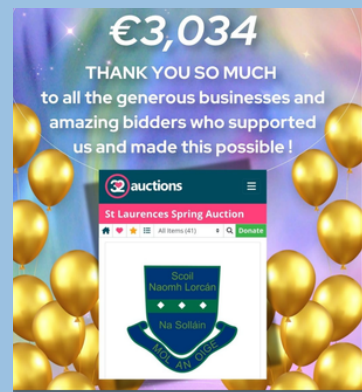
We are always looking for volunteers, so if you can spare even one hour a week, we would love to hear from you. Your time can make a real difference in helping children develop their literacy skills, build confidence, and foster a lifelong love of reading.

Garda Vetting is required and can take several weeks to process, so we encourage anyone interested in getting involved to begin the application process as early as possible.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have supported us to date, especially to our Secretary Maria for leading. We look forward to welcoming both returning and new readers in the new school year.

In April, we launched our very first **Online Auction!** Thanks to the incredible generosity of more than 30 local businesses and supporters, we were able to offer a fantastic range of prizes and raise over €3,000 towards the redevelopment of our school yards.

A huge thank you to all who donated, bid, and supported the auction. Special thanks go to our Fundraising Officer, Lydia, for the tremendous amount of work, dedication, and organisation she put into making this event such a success. We couldn't have done it without her!



Communion Teas & Treats

On Saturday, 23rd May, we were delighted to host our annual Communion Teas & Treats Reception, welcoming families and friends to celebrate this special milestone.

Guests enjoyed many refreshments, including beautifully decorated cupcakes provided by **The Cupcake Kitchen Ireland**.

A sincere thank you to all of the fantastic volunteers who gave their time and support to make the event such a success. Special thanks to our Treasurer, Pamela, and our Members Officer, Anne, who ensured everything ran smoothly on the day.



6th Class Graduation

On Thursday, 25th June, we had the pleasure of hosting a Graduation Celebration for our 6th Class pupils.

The Parents' Association provided tea, coffee, and treats for the graduates, their families, and friends as they marked this special occasion.

We wish all our 6th Class students the very best as they leave primary school and embark on an exciting new journey.

**Congratulations to the Class of 2026
and every success in the years ahead!**



The Parents' Association was delighted to play a part in the school's wonderful **Cultures Day**, a vibrant celebration of the cultures, traditions, and backgrounds that make up our school community.

Families created an incredible showcase of countries from around the world, with colourful displays featuring traditional clothing, flags, languages, music, artefacts, stories, and cultural traditions.

Throughout the day, pupils visited the stands, learned about different countries, and gained a deeper appreciation of the rich diversity within our school.

The celebration was further enhanced by music, singing, dancing, and the opportunity for children to wear traditional dress or their country's colours with pride.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families, staff, and volunteers who contributed their time and enthusiasm to make this event memorable.

What else ? ...

- We organised a **Pre-Loved Uniform Collection**, which was very well received by many families in our school community. Due to demand another date has been added on 2nd July from 5.45pm in Sallins Community Centre
- We led another successful **BOP in the Yard**.
- We organised a second **Bags2School Clothes Collection**, raising a further €61.
- We raised an additional €20 and diverted a further 105 bottles and cans from landfill through donations to our recycling bin, **Duncan**.
- Our **Rag Day** on 13th March raised an impressive €1,600.
- We were delighted to receive €426 through the **Tesco Blue Tokens Community Fund**.
- In May we supported **Bike Week** with a daily average of 111 children coming to the school on wheels.
- The **Walking Bus** continued to thrive, thanks to our Chairperson, Gavin, and the amazing volunteers who keep this going, with an average 110 children each day choosing this safe, active, and enjoyable route to school through the playground,
- As part of Active Week, we facilitated a **girls' soccer training** session in partnership with Sallins Celtic FC to support the continued growth of the girls' game.
- We celebrated our school being awarded a **Green Flag** through the Green-Schools Programme, run by An Taisce.
- We welcomed students from **Naas Community College**, to share valuable insights and advice about the transition to secondary school to 6th classes.
- We continued to actively support and promote the **Park N Stride initiative**, helping to encourage safer, healthier, and more sustainable journeys to and from school. Special thanks go to our Treasurer, Pamela, and Council Officer, Paul, whose dedication and hard work have been instrumental in driving this initiative forward.
- We funded the cycle safety and skills training sessions, delivered by the **Cycle Right** programme for 5th classes.
- We celebrated the outstanding **6th class girls soccer team** who proudly reached the Leinster Finals, finishing third in the 5-a-side competition and representing our school brilliantly.
- We continued to grow our **social media** base and engagement, with an average 20k views a month. Please follow us on **Facebook or Instagram (St Laurence's NS Sallins - Parents Association)** if you would like to keep updated or watch videos and pictures of all our events.

All these initiatives raised valuable funds for our school, strengthened our sense of community and helped promote sustainability.