



ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

SALLINS

Phone 045 879119

School Website: www.sallinsns.ie

email: info@sallinsns.ie

Roll No: 08099P

RCN: 20124182

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2026

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 7th October	No school due to Óide staff in-service day
Friday 16th October - Friday 6th November 2026	Junior Infants 2027/2028 application period
Friday 23rd October	Hallowe'en Walk – Parents Council fundraiser School finishes early as follows: 13:45 – Junior & Senior Infants 14:00: - 1 st – 6 th Classes
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October incl.	Mid-Term Hallowe'en Break. School re-opens on Monday 2 nd November
Mon, Tues & Wed 16th/17th & 18th November	Parent/Teacher Meetings – Booking will happen on Aladdin in October

NEW PUPILS

A special welcome to all our new pupils who began school with us this year.



RETURN TO SCHOOL: We returned to school on Friday 28th August and were delighted to see all our pupils and staff back in school again. For the first two weeks we had no homework in order to help pupils, parents and staff to settle back into the school routine! I know that was a welcome start to the year.

SCHOOL TIMES: School times are currently as follows:

Junior and Senior Infants from 09:20 to 14:00

First to Sixth classes from 09:20 to 15:00

BREAK TIMES: 11:00-11:15 and 12:55-13.20

Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for pupils who are on the premises before 9:10 am. Parents should ensure that they, or the person collecting their child, be at the school no later than the relevant dismissal time above, as staff are not responsible for pupils after that time. In the case of children travelling by bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting the children from the school premises to the bus or from the bus to the school premises. Please remind your children to walk on the footpath when entering/leaving the school. In the interests of safety, **no pupil whether accompanied by an adult or not** should enter the school grounds through the staff car park.

THE CAR PARK IS FOR STAFF CARS ONLY

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: We use the Aladdin Connect app as our main means of communication. You will be able to directly contact your child's teacher, explain absences, update your contact details and receive your child's school report on Aladdin Connect. Please download the Aladdin Connect app on your phone. Feedback on this app has been extremely positive.

It is vital we have your up-to-date details in the event of your child having an accident or becoming ill in school.

If you wish to meet your child's teacher, please make an appointment.

Patronage & Ethos Preference: A survey has been sent by Aladdin to all parents/guardians about the patronage of the school. If you would like to comment further please email: patronage.ethos@sallinsns.ie

FUNDRAISER: We will run our annual fundraiser, the Hallowe'en Walk, on **Friday 23rd October**.

Pupil Insurance: As you may know we operate a 24 hour pupil insurance scheme with Allianz. This costs a very reasonable €5 and insures your child against medical expenses incurred should he/she have an accident. In such an event you may email the school to request a claim form.

EDUCATION ACT 2000: Under this Act the Principal is **obliged by law** to report absences over 19 days to TUSLA. Parents/Guardians therefore must submit reasons for absence to the class teacher on Aladdin. Of course there may be times during the year when children are unwell and we ask that you keep them at home during these times. The roll is taken each morning and the children must be in school in order to be marked present. If a child has been absent for 10 days a text will automatically issue to parents/guardians informing them of their child's 10 days absence. As this is part of the Board of Management's Attendance Strategy, such texts are sent even in cases where the reasons for absences have been explained. As always we are available to meet, by appointment, to discuss any issues with attendance your child may have. If your child is absent from school for any reason please inform your child's class teacher. You may do this on the Aladdin Connect app or by writing a note.

*Yearly Calendar – can be accessed on our website. A limited number are available at Reception.

SPORTS: The new school year sees a new season of sports in the school, with Gaelic games, soccer and athletics already underway. Each year many staff members offer to take teams to organise matches, train teams and bring them to matches. This year I ask for parent volunteers, who will need Garda vetting, if they are in a position to help us with sports. If you would like to assist in a sport/team please contact the principal, Íde Kelly, to discuss same.

BEHAVIOUR: In order to allow teachers to teach effectively and pupils to learn, it is important that each child's behaviour is of a high standard. Constant classroom disruption or serious misbehaviour is unfair to other pupils and unacceptable to school staff. The behaviour of some pupils in the yard is unacceptable at times. Derogatory remarks, racist remarks or aggressive behaviour is not permissible in our school. I ask that you support us in an effort to help children be kinder to each other. As always we really appreciate your help in this.

ROAD SAFETY: As we settle into another school year, it is timely that we emphasize the importance of safe travelling to school. It is highly commendable to see the large number of children cycling, scooting and walking to school. However, we urge parents and guardians to ensure children wear the necessary safety equipment while travelling to school and to revise the Rules of the Road at home with your children. Please remind your children to cross the road outside the school with great care.

I remind parents of the Park & Stride initiative that our Parents Council have implemented. It is working really well and has significantly reduced traffic at the school. Thank you for supporting this safety initiative.

NEPS: This year our school does not have access to an assigned NEPS Psychologist.

Sharing of Data & Information with the HSE:

The HSE School Health Programme includes eyesight & hearing screening, vaccines and dental check-ups including preventative and treatment service for children. The school is obliged to give the HSE the following data to help operate its School Health Programme:

- Name, address, date of birth and sex of the pupil
- The mother's birth surname
- Contact details including the name, phone number and email address of their parent/guardian
- The pupils PPSN number (if any)
- The name of the school which the pupil attends and the roll number

FLU VACCINATIONS: The Board of Management has received many requests from different pharmacies to give the flu vaccine to the children. We will not be facilitating this in the school for the whole student population. Parents who wish for their child to receive the vaccination please consult your own G.P or pharmacy.

DOGS: At the start of the school year I would like to remind dog owners that for health and safety reasons, dogs should not be brought into the school grounds under any circumstances. Parents are also asked to ensure that the family dog does not follow the children to school.

UNIFORMS: Our pupils looked very well as they returned to school in full uniform. For your reference, here is the link to the uniforms on our website: <https://sallinsns.ie/school-uniform-2/> I wish to thank them and you as parents for your co-operation and support on this matter. It is important that the proper uniform is worn each day and that the effort being made at the beginning continues throughout the school year. We believe that wearing the uniform instills pride in our pupils and has a positive effect on behaviour. Should you require one, ties are available to purchase in school at a cost of €5. Please remember to label all your child's uniform and coat/jacket. Once again, thank you for your support.

FOOD: Several of our pupils have serious life-threatening allergies to nuts and eggs. 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. We ask you not to send in cakes, treats etc. for the class. Please do **NOT** include eggs, sesame seeds, nuts or products containing nuts in your children's lunches. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

HOT LUNCHES: If your child has ordered hot lunches and is not eating them, please remember to cancel them, otherwise it leads to increased food waste and is a waste of money.

FINALLY.....

I would like to wish all our pupils, parents/guardians and staff a safe and enjoyable school year!

Yours sincerely,

Íde Kelly
Principal