

St. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Scoil Naomh Lorcán

Phone 045 879119

January 2017/NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Diary Dates

Monday 6th February	School closed – Language Curriculum Day
Thurs/Fri 23rd/24th February	School closed – Mid-term break

Morning School begins at 9.20 am. All classes are collected by their teachers from the yard at this time. Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for pupils who are on the premises before 9.20 am. Unfortunately, some children regularly arrive late for school. This is not only disruptive for teachers and other pupils but is a very bad habit to give children. Also, parents who are late dropping children to school should ensure that the children go into their classroom. At this stage teachers are in their rooms and do not know whether a child is absent for the day or late arriving. In these circumstances the safety of the child is the parents'/guardians' responsibility.

Evening School finishes for Junior/Senior Infants at 2.00 pm and for all other classes at 3.00 pm. Parents should ensure that they or the person collecting their child are at the school no later than the relevant dismissal time 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.

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

Rag Day Our Rag Day before Christmas for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society raised €1,295. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Sports

Rugby: Our boys' rugby team continued the fine form that they showed against Newbridge College with 2 further wins against St. Gerard's and Terenure College. The team showed great character to come back from 21-34 down against Terenure college with 5 minutes to go. They scored 2 converted tries in the last 5 minutes to win it 35-34. Tristan O'Connor scored 3 tries with Ciarán Mangan and Jack Kelly getting one try each. Our 'B' and 'C' teams are improving with each match. Our B team lost 7 tries to 10 against Terenure College in a very good performance. Upcoming fixtures:

Home vs Willow Park (Primary school of Blackrock College) on Friday 27th
January @ 3 pm in Clongowes Wood College, Clane.

Boys Basketball: The boys basketball team are currently training hard for both legs of their semi-final against Monasterevin. The first leg is due to take place on Wednesday 25th January at home. The second leg will take place the following week. The team are hoping to get off to a winning start, with the hope of securing a place in the final. The boys had a guest trainer in to complete a training session with them and to give them some valuable advice going forward in their future basketball careers. We wish the boys, Ms. Molyneux and Mrs. Anderson the very best of luck!

Girls Basketball: Our girls basketball team are now at the semi-final stages of the basketball league. They will play Scoil Mhuire, Ballymany in the first leg of the semi-final on Friday, 20th January and the return leg will be played in Sallins on Friday, 27th January. We wish the team all the best for the semi-finals!

School Choir: The school choir is very excited to be taking part in the Peace Proms concert again this year. They will perform a variety of styles including pop, folk and traditional songs with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. The boys and girls have put in a lot of hard work and are looking forward to this year's performance. It will take place on 5th February 2017 at 2.00 pm in the RDS. Tickets are available on www.peaceproms.com.

Weather Should adverse weather conditions force the school to close, parents will be notified by text and an announcement will be made on KFM. 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.

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.

Bookfair Its that time of year again! Our Parents Association will be running our Book Fair next month. The Book Fair is held in the small hall. Children will be given leaflets in the first week of February showing them a small selection of the many books which will be available to buy at the Book Fair.

There is a wide variety of books, to suit all ages and reading abilities, available on the bookshelves during the Book Fair. The children will get a chance to view the full selection of books with their classes on **Thursday 16th and Friday 17th of February**. Children may buy books then or parents may come to help their children choose books from **2 pm to 3.15 pm** on **Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th of February**.

Our Book Fair has always proven to be very popular with students as it is a great chance for them to buy quality books to read. The Book Fair is also an important way for the school to increase the number of books available to students in our class libraries. Celtic Travelling Books gives us a percentage of money made at the Book Fair to spend on books for our classrooms.

Parents Council The Parents Council has invited Dr. Fergus Heffernan to give a talk on "Healthy minds and emotional well-being in our children and families". This will be held on Wednesday, 1st February in the school hall at 7.30 pm.

Finally I hope we all have a happy, healthy and safe 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Lanigan,
Principal.