

ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL*Scoil Naomh Lorcán***Phone 045 879119****June 2017**

Dear Parents,

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School will close on **Friday, 30th June at 12 noon for the summer holidays.** To avoid congestion Junior and Senior Infants will finish at 11.45 am. All other pupils will finish at 12 noon. **School re-opens on Tuesday 29th August.**

School Year 2017-2018/Class Allocation

Class Level	Room	2017/2018	2016/2017
Junior Infants	1	Mrs B. Moreau	
Junior Infants	2	Ms N. Byrne	
Junior Infants	3	Ms N. Fitzpatrick	
Senior Infants	4	Ms D. Scott	Ms N. Cosgrave
Senior Infants	5	Mrs Ó. Lenehan	Ms A. Amond/Ms M. Stapleton
Senior Infants	6	Mrs L. Hennessy	Ms N. Byrne
1 st Class	7	Ms C. Mulhern	Ms A. Cormican
1 st Class	10	Ms E. Dunning	Mrs L. Hennessy
1 st Class	11	Ms Á. Ahern	Mrs B. Moreau
2 nd Class	12	Ms C. Kennedy	Ms C. Mulhern
2 nd Class	13	Ms H. Spring	Ms A. Hayes
2 nd Class	25	Mrs S. Martin	Ms E. Dunning
3 rd Class	26	Ms H. Cully	Ms S. Martin
3 rd Class	27	Ms D. O'Mahony	Ms H. Spring
3 rd Class	28	Ms H. O'Connor	Ms C. Kennedy
4 th Class	29	Mr P. Kelly	Ms H. O'Connor
4 th Class	30	T.B.A.	Ms D. O'Mahony
4 th Class	31	Ms. S. McKenna	Ms H. Cully
5 th Class	15	Mr D. O'Neill	Mr P. Kelly
5 th Class	16	Mr P. O'Connor	Ms S. McKenna/Ms.M. Burke
5 th Class	17	T.B.A.	Ms A. Molyneaux
6 th Class	20	Mr P. Monahan	Mr R. McDonnell
6 th Class	21	Ms M. Conway	Mr D. O'Neill
6 th Class	22	Mr S. Kennedy	Ms N. Fitzpatrick

LS/RT	Teacher	Room
LS/RT	Ms N. Cosgrave	23
LS/RT	Ms A. Hayes/Ms R. Bramhall	34
LS/RT	Ms S. Dowler	14
LS/RT	Mrs R. Macnamara	18
LS/RT	Mrs M. Keane	8
LS/RT	Ms A. Amond	19
LS/RT	Ms S. Carroll	9
LS/RT	Ms G. Ormond	32
LS/RT	Mrs A.M. McMahan/Ms. O. Byrne	35

Career Breaks: Mr Ruairí McDonnell is taking a career break for the 2017-2018 school year while Ms Tessa Hartnett is continuing her career break for another year. We wish them both safe and happy travelling.

Drumcondra/Micra-T/Sigma-T: Classes from 1st to 6th have recently completed Drumcondra Reading and Spelling (English) and Sigma-T (Maths) tests. The results of these tests, the STen score, have been included in the end of year report. The STen score is a mark between 1 and 10. 10 is the highest mark while a score of 3 or less may indicate some difficulties. We previously circulated a document to all parents from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) giving information on these tests and how to interpret the results and will do so this year for parents of pupils in 1st class. Should any other parent wish to have a copy of this document, it is available at school reception.

Sixth Class: We will be saying goodbye to our present 6th classes at the end of this term. We thank them for their work and for the positive contribution they have made to the school. They take our very best wishes with them as they start secondary school. To mark the occasion 6th class pupils will attend 10.00 am mass in Sallins Parish Church on Wednesday, 28th June.

Road Safety Authority Talk: We welcomed Sarah from the Road Safety Authority to our school on Thursday 25th May. She informed us about all the do's and don't's of road safety. The children listened to Sarah's personal stories about accidents on bikes and in cars; car safety: seatbelts, car seats, distracting the driver, bike and walkers' safety – helmets, where to cross the road and where not to cross the road. It was a very worthwhile talk and we would hope to welcome Sarah to the school again in the coming year.

Active schools: Our active schools week was 19th – 23rd June. We were blessed with amazing weather. We played basketball, soccer, relays and rounders. We walked a mile with a smile and generally bopped and hopped our way through the week! We welcomed lots of new activities to our school which were generously funded by our Parents Council; Henry Bryce from Playball, Jenny Mc Mahon from dance, Mick Mulcahy who did an army assault course with the older children, Water Safety talk given by James Sexton and soccer coaching by Michaela Piare. It was a wonderful week, made extra special by having past pupils come back to coach children. Thank you to our Parents Council for making the above sports possible.

Girls Gaelic Football: Overall, this was a very successful year. The u11 girls played in division 2 this year and won four out of their five games which earned them a place in the final. Unfortunately, they were defeated in the final by a strong Caragh team who were the only team to have beaten them in the league. The girls fought hard and never gave up, showing great team spirit and sportsmanship.

The u13 girls represented the school in division 1 this year, for the first time, which is an amazing achievement for the team and for the school. It was a wonderful accomplishment for this great group of girls. They won four out of the five matches to give them a place in the final against Kilcullen, who have been the overall winners for the last four years.

Hopefully next year we will go one step further and lift a cup! It was a pleasure to work with the two teams, they always had smiles on their faces coming to training and showed great

respect to the other teams. The future is bright and we look forward to what the next year will bring.

Senior Hurling: The Senior Hurlers made it through to the Div 1 Semi-finals earlier this month. They came up against a strong and skillful Celbridge team on a terribly wet day in Clane. The boys started well and kept with their opponents for the first 15 minutes before a few quick scores pushed Celbridge in front going into the half-time break. The Sallins team battled hard throughout the second half. A few unlucky goals gave Celbridge the momentum and Sallins were unable to claw the scores back. Every player got a run and put in a great effort, doing themselves and their school proud in the St. Laurence's N.S.'s first year in Div 1. Well done to all the players involved!

Comhghairdeas also to the four award winners from U-11s & Seniors; Steven Wilson, Ciarán Mangan, Ferdia Ó Domhnaill & Hugh O'Neill.

Best of Luck to the 6th class boys who will be moving on to 1st year. Keep up the hurling. For the 4th & 5th class boys, keep practising over the summer. Many thanks to Luke Kiernan & Seán Power for their support throughout the year.

6th Class Boys Soccer: Our 6th class boy's soccer team finished up their season with a match against Ballymany Senior School in Newbridge on Tuesday 30th May. It was a 1-1 draw at half time, with Stephen Kelly scoring the goal for Sallins. In the 2nd half, Sallins had the wind behind them and pulled away with 2 goals from Tristan O' Connor and the final goal from Ciarán Daly to win 4-1. Overall, it was a very good first season for 11-a-side boys' soccer in Sallins NS with the team winning 4 out of their 5 matches.

Annual School Sports Awards: Our 6th Annual School Sports Awards took place on Tuesday 20th June in the PE Hall. We were celebrating another great sporting year for the school in which 6 trophies were won. There were 72 awards presented across the 7 different sports that we have in our school. Mary Hulgraine, a past pupil of the school and current Ladies' Gaelic Football "All-Star" goalkeeper presented the awards. All classes from 3rd to 6th attended the awards. Tristan O' Connor was awarded "Boy Sports Star of the Year", while Ailbhe Brennan received the "Girl Sports Star of the Year" award. Well done to everyone who received awards on the day. Also, thanks to the Parents Council who sponsor the awards every year.

Athletics: On Monday 29th May 48 boys and girls from 4th, 5th and 6th class competed in the first ever North Kildare Track and Field Event held in Celbridge A.C. The children competed in sprints, middle distance, long jump, shot putt and relay races and won a total of 27 medals overall. Well done to all the boys and girls for their commitment and dedication in the training sessions leading up to the event and for their hard work and determination on the day. A big thank you also to Derek McConnon for all of his support and expertise in the weeks before the event and on the day.

Community Garda: We were pleased to welcome Community Garda Gary Cogan to the school on the 25th and 29th of May. Gary gave presentations in the school library on the work of An Garda Síochána to junior and senior infants and 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th classes.

First Holy Communion Choir 2017: This year, the children in second class celebrating the sacrament of First Holy Communion, were supported in song by the members of the „Sallins Church Children's Choir" and volunteer singers from Sallins National School: 2nd to 6th classes. This combined choir prepared both in school (with staff) and in church on Thursdays with Ms Ausra Ribakoviene in the weeks leading up to the First Holy Communions. They even

practised at home following recordings of all the music which had been uploaded to the school blog.

We extend a very special thank you to all the children who took part in the Communion celebrations. The singing was beautiful and added a wonderful element of praise to the ceremonies. We thank Ausra for all the time and talent she has shared with us.

The Children's Church Choir is directed by Ms Ausra Ribakoviene . They meet in Sallins Church on Thursdays, practicing from 3pm until 3:45pm. They are welcoming new members when they resume singing in September 2017. The choir sings at the 6pm Vigil Mass every second Saturday. Children from 2nd class upwards are invited to join. Their singing is a joy to hear at the masses.

If your child would like to join the Church choir please contact Sallins Parish leaving a note for Ausra with your contact details and she will be in touch with you. She looks forward to the choir continuing and new members adding to their lovely sound. Thank you all!

Pupils Leaving: If your child *is not returning to our school* for the coming school year please let us know in writing as soon as possible. This is very important as we prepare class lists for 2017/2018.

Schoolbooks: As you will be aware, the Board of Management has introduced a Book Rental Scheme in order to minimise the cost of books for parents. As this scheme is developed over the next couple of years, book bills will be significantly reduced. If any parent is experiencing particular difficulty with the cost of books this year please call, in confidence, to the school as book vouchers will be available from the end of June.

Book Rental Scheme: The cost of book rental is €5 or €10, depending on the class level your child is in. Participating in this scheme can result in savings of up to €75 per booklist!

Booklists: The booklists will be available from reception or they are also on the school website. When looking at the website, please ensure you pick the correct booklist. Some classes have two booklists to choose from. One booklist takes account of participation in the book rental scheme, while the other booklist details all the books needed for that year group.

Parents Reading Group: For the last 13 years we have organised a volunteer group of parents to read with various classes on Thursday afternoons in our library. The idea of this project is to encourage children to read a variety of books and to enjoy doing so. A number of parents kindly volunteered to help with this initiative and we thank them all for their generous contribution to the school. A special „thank you“ goes to Tony Connolly who will not return on Thursdays next September, having been in the school every Thursday for the last 13 years! We wish him all the best in the future.

If any parent would like to volunteer for this initiative, please contact the school.

Parents Council: I would like to thank the Parents Council for all their help and support over the year. They have assisted in many ways such as our Hallowe'en Walk, Bookfair, Coffee Morning for parents of our new Junior Infants, refreshments after First Holy Communions and funding the trophies and medals for our sports awards and funding benches for the school. They have also funded, along with the Board of Management, Lego workshops for pupils. Indeed through their efforts our pupils have access to many educational resources which are not provided by the Department of Education and Skills. We hope to see a good attendance at the Parents Council AGM in the autumn as it is vital that this vibrant and important support of the school continues.

NCBI – We thank all in our school community who donated clothing for this worthy cause and in the process raised the not inconsiderate sum of €489.50 which will go to provide extra resources for our pupils.

After School Activities: I would like to thank school staff who are involved in after school activities. They give so generously of their own time to our pupils and at no cost to parents. This year we have had more than 21 activities available to pupils. These all took place after school hours and covered a wide range of interests including sport, music, ICT, fitness, gardening and art. I know that this generosity is much appreciated by parents and it is timely that we acknowledge it as the school year draws to an end.

Uniforms: As you are aware, pupils are expected to wear the school uniform each day or the school tracksuit on PE/swimming days. The wearing of the full, proper uniform is strictly enforced. All pupils are expected to comply with this policy without exception. This will include wearing the school tie. The uniform consists of:

Boys: plain grey trousers, navy jumper, light blue shirt and navy tie.

Girls: grey skirt, pinafore or trousers, navy jumper or cardigan, light blue blouse and navy tie.

School staff are of the opinion that not only will pupils in full uniform look smarter but adherence to this rule will have a beneficial effect on behaviour and indeed pride in one's school. I thank parents for their continued co-operation and support in this matter

Memorial Service: On Tuesday the 20th of June we held our biennial service in the school Memorial Garden for deceased members of the school community. It was a lovely peaceful ceremony which brought comfort and solace to those present. I would like to thank Fr. Joe O'Neill for his kind words, school staff for their work in preparing for the service and their help with the music and refreshments and especially those parents who were present on the night to remember their loved ones. It is our intention to hold this service again in May/June 2019.

Calendar: The school calendar as set out for next year is on the school website. Copies are also available from school reception.

Lost Property: We have a large collection of coats, jumpers, etc left behind by pupils over the year. These will be on display in the small hall this week. Please come and look through them. Items remaining will be donated to charity.

.....and finally, on behalf of the staff I would like to wish all pupils and parents a safe and happy summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all after the break.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Lanigan,
Principal.

