



# St. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Scoil Naomh Lorcán

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**March 2017/Easter 2017**

natmums.com

## DIARY DATES

Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Confirmation	Mr Monahan's Class – 11 am Mr Kennedy's Class – 2 pm
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Confirmation	Mr O'Connor's Class – 11 am
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Early Close	School closes 12 noon*
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	School Closed	Easter Holidays
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	School Re-opens	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May & Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	No School	Bank Holiday
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Rag Day	Nurses for Nightcare

**\*As usual to avoid congestion junior & senior infants will go home 15 minutes before all other pupils.**

**Rag Day** On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May we will hold a Rag Day for the Irish Hospice Foundation. Each year parent Alan Kelly fundraises for the hospice through its annual cycle challenge. This is a daunting challenge and much of the cost involved in participating is borne by Alan himself. This year we are helping Alan's fundraising efforts by holding a Rag Day. All monies raised will go to the hospice's Nurses for Nightcare Programme. This worthy service provides care to people in their own homes at end of life right across the country.

**All Weather Pitch** As you are aware the school has applied for funding through the Sports Capital Grant to convert the school field to an all weather facility. Please, if you have not already done so, sign our online petition by logging on to <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/a-17>. You enter your name and email address and then click 'sign petition'. This is a secure site but if you do not wish to receive information on other petitions, please remember to unclick that box. Also, ignore any requests to donate to ipetitions! The support of friends and relatives and contact with local politicians and councillors would be greatly appreciated.

**Easter Raffle** Tickets for our annual Easter Raffle may be bought up to and including Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April. We gratefully accept donations of eggs from parents and, on the day of the raffle, tickets are drawn for these in each classroom. To ensure that as many children as possible win Easter eggs, we will limit the number of eggs any child can win to two. Participation is, of course, voluntary and all funds raised will go towards providing extra resources for the school.

## Sport

**Cross Country Running:** Cross country is back up and running with the next competition taking place on Thursday 6th April at the Hawkfield Centre of Excellence in Newbridge. Once again we saw a great uptake for the initial trials which were held in February for children from 4th, 5th and 6th class. Training got underway soon afterwards and the boys and girls worked very hard over the past number of weeks showing great commitment and dedication. Final trials were held in March so the girls and boys teams will represent our school in the Cumann na mBunscoil competition in Newbridge. We wish them and their coaches Ms Stapleton and Mr Derek McConnon the very best of luck!

**Hurling:** The Senior Hurlers will be playing in Division 1 this Spring for the first time. The first trial was held last Thursday 22nd March with 30 boys from 4th to 6th class turning up. A panel will be picked in the coming weeks. The first game will be played after the Easter holidays. We will be playing against St. Corban's of Naas and Caragh N.S. We wish all of the boys the best of luck! Keep practising over the holidays.

**U10 Boys Gaelic Football:** Trials have taken place for the under 10 boys football and the panel has been named ahead of our first game against Maynooth Boys School on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March. This will be a home game in Sallins G.A.A and the boys will be hoping to get their season off to a winning start. The competition will be tough in Division 1 with games against some of the biggest boys schools in Kildare. Our lads are relishing the challenge and will give it their all against Clane and Celbridge in the coming weeks. We wish the team the best of luck in the season ahead and we are delighted to see them representing Sallins in the top Cumann na mBunscoil division. Well done boys! Sallins abú!

**Hockey:** During the past year new players joined the school hockey club increasing our membership to 30 players. This increase enabled the club to field four teams at the recent blitz. Each team enjoyed playing three matches despite tough weather conditions.

The final event of the year is the Grainger Hockey Blitz for Primary Schools held in Kildare. There will be the Grainger Cup and the Grainger Shield awarded at the final of this blitz which is on Thursday 6th April on the hockey grounds at K Leisure, Naas from 2-4pm. Supporters are welcome to attend.

We wish to thank the Grainger Family for kindly sponsoring the Cup and the Shield for the Blitz. Finally we wish our teams the very best of luck in their matches next week.

**Camogie:** Senior camogie is back up and running and the girls are doing brilliantly. Since last checking in, the u11 girls made it to the final of their blitz but unfortunately were beaten on the day. The girls showed great determination throughout and we are very proud of them. Senior camogie has started and we have had great numbers at training so far. We are due to play our first senior match on 4<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm against Caragh in Sallins GAA pitch. We have four other matches at a later date during the school year and we hope to be as successful as last term. Training resumes every Thursday after school and beginners to experienced players are all welcome.

**Rugby:** Our boys rugby teams finished their season recently. In their second last match, our 'A' team played Clongowes Wood 1st year 'C' team on Friday 10th March. This was one of Sallins' best performances of the season. A hat-trick of tries from Tristan O'Connor had Sallins leading 21-5 at half time. Seán Tipper scored another try early in the second half. Clongowes made a strong comeback from then on but Sallins held on to win 28-20.

In the final match of the season, our 'A', 'B' and 'C' teams travelled up to Blackrock to play Willow Park on Tuesday 14th March. Our 'A' team put in a very good performance and were only 1 point behind, 21-22, with 5 minutes to go. However, Willow Park scored another try to seal the match 29-21. Tristan O'Connor scored all 3 tries for Sallins, with Ciarán Mangan adding the conversions. Our 'C' team lost 2 tries to 4 in a very competitive match. Our 'B' team acquitted themselves very well but unfortunately lost on the day.

Overall this season, our 'A' team did very well winning 5 out of their 8 matches against many of the top rugby schools in Ireland. Our 'B', 'C' and 'D' teams had mixed fortunes with some wins and some losses along the way. We have now finished our 4th season of rugby in the school, and we remain the only primary school in Kildare playing rugby against the Dublin schools.

**Soccer:** Our boys 6th class soccer team will be commencing their series of friendly matches shortly. As there is currently no 11-a-side soccer league for primary schools in Kildare, we will play friendly matches against 1st year teams from smaller secondary schools in Kildare (who compete in Division 2 of the FAI Midlands League) and primary schools in Dublin who play soccer when the rugby season is over.

It is hoped to play five or six matches altogether. Two matches have been arranged for before the Easter holidays, with further matches provisionally organised to take place after Easter. This is the first time that we have had 11-a-side soccer in the school. Some of the boys play soccer for various clubs in Kildare and Dublin, so it should be a great experience for them to play soccer matches together with their friends for the school.

**U13 Girls Gaelic Football:** The girls have started on a good foot with the u13 Gaelic football league. This year, they are representing the school in Division 1 and had an amazing win over Clane particularly considering the miserable conditions last week. They put in a great team effort and fought until the last minute. The girls will play Maynooth this week and Kilcullen next week. Hopefully our luck continues!

**U13 Boys Gaelic Football:** Having won 2-in-a-row Division 2 titles in 2015 and 2016, Sallins are now up playing Division 1 football at under 13 level for the first time ever. Sallins are currently the only co-ed school competing in Division 1 in Kildare. We are looking forward to the challenge of competing against all boys' schools.

The under 13 boys have been busy training over the past 4 weeks in preparation for the start of the league. Their 1st match is at home to St. Corban's (Naas Boys' School) on Wednesday 5th April @ 1.30pm in Sallins GAA. There are 3 group matches to be played altogether. Matches against Ballymany, Newbridge and Kildare Town will take place after the Easter holidays.

**Engineer's Week** Engineer's week took place from 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March. It is a week long programme of events to celebrate the world of engineering in Ireland. The aim of this week is to create awareness and spark enthusiasm about the engineering profession. We were one of many Kildare schools taking part in these events. Some of our events were hosted by Brian and Dave, two of our parents who work for Intel. Our engineers from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class were faced with the challenge of designing and building bridges. The children were limited in the materials they were allowed to use. Our two Intel engineers were on hand to guide and assist the children. The events took place over two days. Brian and Dave also spoke to the children about their work as engineers. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities. It was a great opportunity for them to understand firsthand how exciting and enjoyable engineering can be. We are very grateful to Brian and Dave for volunteering to be with us for two days.

Meanwhile 4<sup>th</sup> class were challenged to build tables that would hold a couple of books. They were allowed to use newspaper, sellotape and a piece of card for the top. Everybody working as part of a team they set about designing and making their tables with great results.

5<sup>th</sup> class were busy designing and making famine cottages. Once again all of the materials were recycled. Working as part of a team, drawing up a plan and keeping within a timeframe were also included in their task. The children all enjoyed their activity and were very happy with the finished products.

Photographs of all of these events are on our school blog [sallinsns.edublogs.org](http://sallinsns.edublogs.org). Please have a look and leave a comment. Your email will be requested if you are making a comment. This is for security reasons only and cannot be viewed on our blog.

**Special Guest** We were delighted to welcome paralympian and marathon champion, Patrick Monahan, to our school. Following a car accident, Patrick has been confined to a wheelchair. However, this in no way prevented Patrick from becoming a successful athlete. He has participated in many marathons around the world, winning several and has also represented Ireland at the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. He has given moving and inspirational talks to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes and will return to speak to our other classes before the end of June.

**Parent/Teacher Communication** In our large busy school parents oftentimes wish to consult with teachers on issues which arise or matters of concern. When such consultations are impromptu there can be quite a considerable loss of teaching time as the teacher engages with the parent. Equally, during such unscheduled discussions pupils are left unsupervised which is neither safe nor acceptable. Teachers will always make time to speak with parents but for issues of concern, this should always be by prior appointment. Issues of minor importance or messages to the class teacher should be communicated by note/letter or written in your child's homework diary.

I thank you in anticipation for your co-operation on this matter.

Noel Lanigan  
Principal



