

St. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL  
*Scoil Naomh Lorcán*  
Phone 045 879119  
**May 2017**

Dear Parents,

**Diary Dates:**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May & Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> June | NCBI clothes collection |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June                                    | Public Holiday          |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June     | School Closed           |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June – Sports Awards                  | 1:30pm – 3:00 pm        |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June – Memorial Service               | 7:00 pm                 |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class Mass   | 10:00am                 |

**Rag Day:** Our Rag Day on 5<sup>th</sup> May for the Irish Hospice Foundation raised €1,350. Many thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

**Ceremonies:** Congratulations to the boys and girls in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes who respectively celebrated First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The pupils were a credit to their parents and teachers. Thank you to all involved whose hard work and dedication helped ensure that each of the six ceremonies was a special occasion.

**Clothes Collection:** Our Parents Council is organising a charity clothes collection through NCBI at the school on Wednesday and Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June.



**Lego Workshop:** In April a company called ‘Learnit’ came to school for three days. During those days they provided engineering sessions using Lego to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. The sessions for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> were called ‘Simple Machines’. In pairs they built a model following instructions using Lego, gears and axles. They were then challenged to get a better understanding of how and why it worked.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class sessions were called “Machines and Mechanisms”. In pairs they built a car using Lego, power packs, motors, gears and axles. They were set a number of tasks, e.g. using different gears and different tyres to understand better how each part worked. They had to record their findings and results as they went along and make comparisons.

We would like to thank our Parents Council and our Board of Management for funding these workshops. If you would like to view some of the activities go to [sallinsns.edublogs.org](http://sallinsns.edublogs.org). Thanks also to Mrs Keane, our science co-ordinator, for organising the Lego workshops.

**Discover Primary Science Plaque:** We are delighted to have achieved a Science and Maths Excellence Award from Discover Primary Science. This is the 7th year in a row we have achieved this distinction and it is a wonderful reflection of the work of pupils, parents and staff. Sincere thanks to the teachers and pupils who participated and, in particular, to Mrs Keane who co-ordinated the project.

## School Garden:

We have all been very busy in our school garden during the past few weeks. Following on from suggestions given by staff and students, various gardening projects were chosen for each class group:



- Junior and Senior Infants planted a mini-sensory garden
- First class planted sunflowers
- Second class are involved in photographing the garden through the seasons, the construction of a sound wall and the creation of 'fairy dwellings'
- Third class planted a herb garden
- Fourth class students photographed the planting projects and informed the school community. They will also be planting flowers
- Fifth class planted a pumpkin patch
- Sixth class are in the process of making tepees and planting sweet pea



This has been a very enjoyable experience for all involved and we look forward to seeing each project blossom through the summer term and beyond. There has been great excitement in our school library in recent weeks where, thanks to our caretaker Kevin, we have all been able to follow the progress of a little Blue Tit, from the building of her nest through to the hatching and care of her new fledglings. Kevin connected a camera to a bird box which the children can all watch on a large television in the library. Our little Blue Tit is proving to be a wonderful mammy and has given us all plenty of enjoyment and learning opportunities.



## Texaco Art Competition



Congratulations to Aoife Keane and Emily Synnott from Senior Infants who won prizes in the Texaco Children's Art competition. This is a great achievement for the children and the school as they were competing with thousands of entries nationwide. Aoife created a beautiful piece of art titled "Dublin town" and Emily's superb picture was titled "My Favourite Movie". **Aoife and Emily will be presented with their prizes at a prize giving ceremony in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.** The winning pictures will go on tour at art galleries nationwide – details can be found on the Texaco Children's Art website.

Well done to everyone who took part in the competition this year and the school looks forward to taking part again in 2018.

**SAEs:** As teachers prepare end of year reports for their pupils, we ask that parents send in a Stamped Addressed Envelope for the report. One envelope per family is sufficient.

**School Sports Awards:** Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual School Sports Awards will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm in the PE hall. There will be "Most Improved Player" and "Player of the Year" awards presented for the various teams across the 7 different sports that we have in our school. All classes from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> will attend these awards.

**U13 Boys Gaelic Football:** This was the first year that our boys under 13 Gaelic football team has ever competed in Division 1. In their 1<sup>st</sup> match, they played against St. Corban's (Naas Boys School). Despite being 11 points down early in the second half, the team never gave up and staged a great comeback. They narrowed the gap to 2 points, but eventually lost by 3 points on a score line of 3-5 to 3-8.

In their 2<sup>nd</sup> match, they played against Scoil Mhuire Senior School from Ballymany in Newbridge. Sallins were leading by 7 points at half-time, but Ballymany had a very strong wind behind them in the second half. Sallins found it very difficult to get scores in the second half and failed to convert a number of good goal scoring opportunities. The final score was Sallins 2-11 Ballymany 5-6.

In their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final group match against Kildare Town, Sallins had their best performance of the season. They scored an impressive 4-17 to Kildare Town's 3-6. Overall, it has been a good first season in Division 1 with 1 win and 2 narrow loses. Half of this year's team were from 5<sup>th</sup> class, so we look forward to competing strongly again in Division 1 next season.

**6<sup>th</sup> Class Boys Soccer:** This is the first year that we have ever had an 11-a-side 6<sup>th</sup> class boys soccer team. As there is currently no school league in Kildare, our first 3 matches of the season were against 1<sup>st</sup> year teams from secondary schools around Kildare - The Curragh PP, St. Conleth's (Newbridge) and Ardscoil na Trionóide (Athy). Our 'A' team won two of these three matches. On 16<sup>th</sup> May, two teams from Sallins travelled up to Blackrock in Dublin to play two of Willow Park's 6<sup>th</sup> class teams. Our 'A' team won 3-2 while our 'B' team tried hard but lost 2-5.

Upcoming Soccer Fixture: Away vs Scoil Mhuire, Ballymany (Newbridge) @1.30pm on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May in Standhouse Road, Ballymany, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

**5<sup>th</sup> Class Boys Soccer:** Our 5<sup>th</sup> class boys soccer team entered the u12 Soccer Community Games Competition. They won their quarter-final against Milltown convincingly and played St. Brigid's from Newbridge in the semi-final. It was 4-4 with 5 minutes to play, but St. Brigid's got two late goals to win the match. St. Brigid's went on to win the final against Maynooth. For many of these boys it was their first time playing 11-a-side soccer and the experience will help them prepare for playing with the school 6<sup>th</sup> class team next season.

**Girls u13 Football:** Representing the school in Division 1 this year for the first time *ever* was a fantastic achievement for our girls. Over the last couple of months they played five matches against other schools, winning four of the five. This earned the girls a place in the semi final which saw them fight hard and come out on top as deserving winners. The girls will compete in the final against Kilcullen this week. We are hoping our success continues but whatever happens on the day we are so proud of the team. Sallins abú!

**Camogie:** The U13 camogie team have been very busy these past few weeks having played three matches. The girls showed great determination and hunger throughout their games but unfortunately we were pipped at the post! We have one group game left this Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May vs Scoil Mhíchil Naofa in Sallins GAA pitch at 12:30pm. The girls are

really looking forward to it. The team has put in a lot of work into both their training and matches and we are very proud of them and their achievements.

**Senior Hurling:** The Senior Hurling team began their first year in Division 1 with a hard fought win over Caragh N.S. A sluggish first half left Sallins with work to do, but the players really upped their game in the second half. A last gasp free for Sallins sent the game into extra-time. Two early goals gave the lads a great boost and they finished the stronger of the two teams.

The following day the team welcomed St. Corban's of Naas to Sallins. After a good start Naas eventually got on top, putting the lads under a lot of pressure on the ball. Tired legs were unable to pull the game back and Naas secured the win. Well done to all of the lads, working hard until the end.

The team have made it through to the semi-finals. Their opponents will be known in the coming days with the game to be played sometime next week. Best of Luck!!

**Boys u10 Football:** It was great to see such a huge turnout for trials for the under 10 boys football team this year. Selecting a panel from these trials proved very difficult such was the quality of players. The boys played very well in our home game against Maynooth. Even though they found themselves behind after the first half they closed the gap and came back into the game with a few lovely scores. The next match was away against Clane. The boys got their first trip away on a bus as a team and were very excited. They played brilliantly and never gave up, but Clane emerged as winners and went on to the semi final. We are very proud of the effort, work rate and discipline shown by our youngest team in Cuman na mBunscol and we can't wait to see them in action again next year in the under 11's competition.

**Hockey:** We had a great turnout this year for hockey, both boys and girls enjoying the game together. The Grainger Blitz was a huge success, everybody enjoyed the games. We had four teams and our shield team drew with Clane and we chose to share the shield. We look forward to another great season next year. We wish our 6<sup>th</sup> class players the best of luck and we hope they continue to enjoy hockey in their new school. We would like to thank the Parents Association for providing refreshments after the blitz and a big thank you to the Grange Café for their generous sponsorship.

**Wildways:** Our three 1<sup>st</sup> classes enjoyed a wonderful day exploring minibeasts with Una Halpin in our school garden. This workshop was facilitated by Naas librarian and parent Trina Coyne and we thank Trina for this.

**Memorial Service:** We will hold a service in our Memorial Garden on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of June at 7:00pm. We last held this in June 2015 and decided at that time to hold a service every two years. At this ceremony we remember those members of our school community who have died. All are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards in the library.

**Green Schools:** We are currently working towards our Green Flag under the theme of Water. The first stage of this process is our 'Environmental Review'. During this time we look at our water usage and areas where we might be wasting water. It is important that the whole school community is involved in the project and therefore we will be

sending water usage surveys home to certain classes to be completed by families. Not every family will be given a detailed survey, however we feel that it is important for each family to carry out their own 'Review'. The children on the Green Schools Committee have come up with the following questions which may help you to review your water usage;

1. Do you turn off the tap while you are brushing your teeth?
2. Do you only put on the washing machine when it is a full load?
3. Do you only put on the dishwasher when it is full?
4. In your home do you mostly take showers instead of baths?
5. Do you always put the plug in the sink or use a basin when rinsing/washing up?
6. Do you turn off the tap while you are soaping your hands?
7. Do you have a water butt?
8. Do you try not to let the water 'run' when getting a glass of water?
9. Do you use the right size pots/amount of water for cooking e.g. a small pot for a small amount of vegetables just covering them with water?
10. Do you use the right amount of water in the kettle depending on how many cups of tea you are making e.g. a small amount if just making one cup?



There are many other areas of the home that you can consider when carrying out your review, these are just some questions to get you started. If you answered yes to most of these questions then you are being careful not to waste water. If you answered no to most questions then there may be ways for your household to save more water. Thank you for taking the time to review your water usage.

**All Weather Pitch:** As we continue our campaign to secure funding for an all-weather pitch for the school and community groups, we once again ask parents, family members and friends to add your support by signing the online petition. A link on the school website ([sallinsns.scoilnet.ie](http://sallinsns.scoilnet.ie)) will lead directly to the petition site. Once again, any requests of donations from this site are completely unrelated to our campaign. Many thanks to those who have already signed up, your support is greatly appreciated.

The pupils themselves have been playing an important role designing awareness-raising posters with the slogan "*Soccer, Gaelic, Rugby and all the rest, An all-weather pitch would be the best*" (submitted by Timofe Oke, Mr.Kelly's 4<sup>th</sup> Class). The pupil committee worked hard to choose the best entrants from hundreds of very high standard posters. In the end, it was decided that Aga Zajac's (Mr. Monahan's 6<sup>th</sup> Class) eye-catching poster was a very worthy winner. Well done to Aga and indeed all entrants for their creative efforts.

As a group prize, Aga's class enjoyed additional sports time during the warm weather in our current field. Hopefully, with your continued support, an all-weather pitch would allow year-round access and activity.

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Noel Lanigan,  
Principal.



