

St. Laurence's National School

Christmas Newsletter 2024



*From all of Us at
St. Laurence's National School*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach Christmas and the end of our First Term, I would like to thank everyone in the School Community for your ongoing support and I would like to wish you all a very *Happy Christmas*.

Throughout the term the children have been busy. They have been involved in various sporting, academic and fun activities which we intend to continue in the New Year.



School Events

Power Hour

The children of 1st have completed their 6 weeks' power hour schedule, 2nd class will complete their programme in the new year. This is a whole class intensive programme aimed at improving the children's reading and writing skills. The children of Senior Infants will commence their 6-week programme when we return in January.

Reading Buddies

The children in the senior school continue to pair up with the children in the junior school on a regular basis. The aim of this initiative is to nurture and develop a love of reading. This is enjoyed by all of the children.



Gaeilge

SOS Beag has been ongoing throughout the term. The children have great fun using as much Gaeilge as possible during the small break each Tuesday. This includes singing songs, playing games, performing dances and chatting - all done through Irish.

Maith sibh!

Science

Ms. Carroll's 4th class also enjoyed a science workshop with 'Anyone for Science' in November. They learned all about





electricity and batteries, including voltage, circuits and conductors. The children even got to have some hands on experience by creating their own batteries using tinfoil, lemon juice, cardboard and coins. Hopefully it has inspired some future engineers and scientists!!!



Heritage expert

Sarah Myers visited the school on Tuesday 12th November. The boys and girls in 1st and 2nd classes were treated to some storytelling of Irish myths and legends and mask decorating.

Artist of the Month

Each month the children get to explore a new artist to learn about and get the opportunity to use the art techniques used by that artist. We have some incredible artists in the school and each month a child from each class year is awarded an artist of the month. Their art work is on display in the foyer of the senior and junior buildings. Congratulations to all the children who have been awarded the Artist of the month so far this year.



Art Workshop

All our 6th classes took part in 2 Art workshops organised by Aoife Cannon and Baldoyle Tidy Towns. The SEAI sustainable authority Artists were Maria and Masha. The workshop was enjoyed by all and the children's work will be on display in Seagrang Park.

Anti-bullying



Anti-bullying and kindness week took place from November 11th to 15th in both schools. Activities took place throughout the week and children were encouraged to be kind and thoughtful. On Friday 15th the children were

asked to wear odd socks. This was to highlight everyone being different and unique.

A Kindness award is given out at each assembly to those children the teachers, SNAs have noticed being especially thoughtful and kind. Well done to all the children who have received the award so far this year.

Friendship Friday continues every Friday in the school to encourage children to be kind and thoughtful to everyone in their class and in yard.

Green School Committee

The Green School committee have been very busy keeping our school green and clean. We are working towards the 'Global Citizenship: Travel' flag in the school this year.



Jennifer from Green Schools visited Ms. Crosse's 2nd class on 25th November and brought them on an idling survey of cars around the school as part of Clean Air Week.



The Picker Pals programme is also continuing and students in 2nd class are doing great work around the Baldoyle area making our community greener and cleaner.

Student Council

Our new student council has been elected with a student from each 3rd to 6th class involved. This has been very successful to-date and the children have brought forward some very good ideas.



School Assembly



Our school assemblies continue each month and gives everyone in the school the opportunity to acknowledge

all the events and activities taking place in both senior and junior buildings.

St. Laurence's NS Podcast

We are delighted to announce our new St. Laurence's National School podcast. The podcast has all the latest news and updates from the school. The podcast in November was presented by Ms. Fahey's 6th Class, and December was presented by Mr. Maher's 6th class. It can be found on Spotify and Instagram and is available as gaeilge agus béarla!



New Chromebooks and ipads

We are happy to report we have added new chromebooks and ipads this term to our current bank of computers in the school.

Christmas Carol Service



The children from the Junior and Senior buildings took part in a Carol Service in St Laurence O'Toole Church on Tuesday, 17th December 2024. The service was enjoyed by all. ***Well done to everyone involved!***

5th class went carol singing in St. Patrick's Care Centre on 18th December whilst some children from **4th and 6th class** sang in St. Michael's House. They entertained all the residents with some fantastic singing.



Christmas Jumper Day was also held on Friday 13th December. All the children and staff looked very festive in their Christmas attire!!!



Sports

The children have enjoyed a wide range of sporting activities and other activities for the children, including Gaelic, Basketball, Tennis and Gymnastics this term.

- **GAA** - The Boys and Girls **Gaelic teams** participated in the Cumann na mBunscoil GAA competition and did our school proud yet again with the girls bringing some silverware back to the school! Thank you to all the teachers involved for organising and thank you to the parents for providing lifts to get to matches.

All classes continue to have GAA with na Dubh Ghall - thank you to Ben and Mark for their time.



- **Athletics** - Fifth & Sixth Class children took part in "**Marathon Kids**". They ran their final mile on Friday 22nd November and received their medals and t-shirts. Children from the senior building also took part in a Cross Country competition and performed brilliantly winning lots of medals. Well done to everyone who participated.
- **Basketball** - both girls and boys teams played a very successful friendly match against Stapolin Educate Together School.
- **Gymnastics** - students in the senior and junior building enjoyed gymnastic classes with Hannah during the term.
- **Tennis** - Tennis continues with Trackside Tennis Club with 4th and 6th classes enjoying tennis coaching this term. 1st 2nd 3rd and 5th classes will get the opportunity next term to

participate. Thanks to Fiana, Séan and Matthew for all their time.

- **Swimming Olympian** Darragh Greene came to the school on Monday 18th November and held a Q&A session with all the boys and girls from 2nd to 6th class at their assembly. He gave a great insight to everyone on all the hard work and dedication that goes into becoming an elite athlete. Thank you to Ms. Hanley for organising.

To see more pictures from school activities please visit our website at: www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org

Fundraising

- **Dublin City Marathon:** Congratulations to Mr. Maher, Orla McKnight and Ger Redmond who ran on behalf of the school. A total of **€2,190.10** was raised with the Marathon Cards distributed throughout the school by the Parents Committee. 
- **School Christmas Raffle:** Thank you to all everyone who contributed to our school raffle this year and congratulations to all the children who won prizes in this year's raffle. It took place on Wednesday 18th December and raised **€1,723.70** to be shared between the local **St. Vincent de Paul** and **Focus Ireland**. A fantastic response, thank you. 
- **Carol Singing:** Some of the boys and girls from 3rd to 6th Class sang Christmas Carols at **SuperValu** Sutton on Friday 13th December **€911.80** was raised for '**Make a Wish Foundation**'. The Parents Association provided the children with hot chocolate to heat them up when they returned to school. A lovely morning was had by all.



- **Parent's Committee:** Once again we thank all the Committee members who have done fantastic work in organising **Christmas Cards**, the **Marathon Sponsorship Cards**, **Cake Sale**, **Halloween dress-up day**, and various fundraising events. These fundraising events allow us to facilitate a lot of the fun activities for the children in the school.
 - **Christmas Cards:** A total of **€1,7432.50** was raised.
 - **Non uniform Day:** A total of **€1,635.50** was raised
 - **Voluntary Contributions:** Many thanks to all who contributed

A big thanks to the committee for giving parcels of special reindeer food to all the children in the junior building and candy canes to the children in the senior building.

Enrolment for Junior Infants 2025/2026 is ongoing and as places are filling up fast, please attend to it as soon as possible.

- *Parents can register their children via our online application on our web-site at <https://www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org/> or*
- *Hard copy application forms are also available in both the Junior and Senior school offices.*

Important Dates for 2025



- Closing date for **Junior Infants applications** is **12:00 mid-day 30th January 2025.**
- **Confirmation-** Friday, 08th March 2025
- **First Holy Communion** - Saturday, 18th May 2025
The ***Do This In Memory of Me Programme*** is ongoing for pupils preparing for **First Holy Communion.**

Donations to the school

We have been incredibly fortunate this term to have had two benefactors donate funds to the school. St. Laurence's NS has never had such generous gifts and we are incredibly grateful. It will ensure our students can avail of additional materials and resources to support their learning.

The Board of Management would also like to extend their thanks for these generous donations.

<https://irishgolfer.ie/latest-golf-news/2024/11/25/pakistani-golfers-ireland-raise-e10000-for-st-laurences-ns-baldoyle/>

Once again I would like to thank everyone associated with the school and especially you the parents/guardians for your continued support and encouragement, as without it the school would not run as smoothly as it does. We greatly appreciate your constant good will.

At this point could I pay tribute and say thanks to the local organisations who work closely with us and support us.

We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.



Clare Finnerty

(Principal Teacher)



School closes for Christmas Holidays on

Friday 20th December at 12:00 noon

Please note: The Children will return to school at

9.00am on Monday, 6th January 2025