



Coinnigh an solas ar lasadh

St Patrick's National School

Collon Road, Slane, Co. Meath C15 NX78

(041) 982 4229
office@slanens.ie
www.slanens.ie
Roll No: 18040L
Principal:
Paul O'Donnell

Letter 3 – Settling In

9th September 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Some updates:

School Secretaries' and Caretakers' Industrial Action

- The industrial action for better terms and conditions for secretaries and caretakers has been paused as talks begin between unions and management. As a result, we are delighted to have Sharon back in the office.

School Crests & Uniforms

- School crests have arrived to the office. They are €3 each. Please send money in with your child for crests and they will be given crests in exchange. We are now a tracksuit only school. Please make sure that it is worn every day. Plain, cotton, navy shorts may be worn instead of tracksuit bottoms. Other shorts are not permitted. Please click [here](#) to view our uniform policy.

Attendance

- Good attendance is the single biggest predictor of high academic attainment. Our school attendance improved last year and will continue to be a big focus this year.
- Of course, when children are ill, they should stay at home. However, we are asking parents/ guardians to avoid holidays during term time and taking children out of school early for events or trips, where possible. In addition, if your child is reluctant to come to school for any reason, please contact their class teacher so that we can identify reasons, and support them.
- Please supply a written explanation for all pupil absences via email, Aladdin or in your child's homework diary. Parents will be notified when a child has missed 10 and 15 days during the year, and we have to report to TUSLA when 20 days have been missed.

Individual Pupil Expenses

- Many thanks to all those who have paid the Individual Pupil Expenses. I am asking that outstanding IPE costs be paid before Friday 26th of September. This money is for text messages, photocopying, testing and art materials for each pupil. This payment also covers 24-hour pupil insurance for hospital, doctor or dental bills, both inside and outside of school. If these expenses occur, please contact the school office for a claim form. If any family has a general pupil expenses payment difficulty, please also contact the office.

Medical Conditions/Allergies

- If your child has developed a medical condition or allergy, please call to the school office and get an Administration of Medication Form from Sharon. Fill in and return it to the office as soon as possible.

Bí Cineálta (Be Kind) Anti-bullying Policy

- Our school ratified a new anti-bullying policy last year, titled Bí Cineálta (Be Kind). It can be found [here](#). It is based on mutual respect and kindness.
- Problem solving will be modelled to pupils at assembly this week for situations with others, which make them feel uncomfortable or which they are not happy about. Please reinforce this message at home. The message to pupils in these situations is **"Say No, Try to Sort It Yourself, Walk Away, Tell"**.
- There will also be chat boxes in all the middle and senior classes where pupils can drop notes discreetly.



Proud of our school's achievements



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Head Lice

- Head lice are a common occurrence, where lots of people gather together. The beginning of each term is when we notice the highest rate of head lice reports to the school.
- Please check for head lice in your child's hair this week and again at the weekend. See the attached note. Please keep long hair clipped or tied up in plaits, ponytails, etc. to reduce surface area to cling to. Consider using repellent spray or tea tree oil/lavender oil at the base of the neck or in shampoo bottles. If pupils do get head lice, let us know so that we can send notifications out to all pupil families to be vigilant.

Mobile Phones

- Our school's Parent Association has a volunteer smartphone and social media agreement, where you can defer the use of either or both for as long as possible. You can find out more about the project [here](#)
- Where used, mobile phones should only be brought to school in exceptional circumstances and must be switched off before the child enters the school grounds and handed to teachers until the end of the day.
- Pupils can turn their phones on once they have left the school grounds. Consent forms for mobile phones in school are available in the school office or from class teachers. Any mobile phone found in a pupil's possession without consent must be collected from the office by their parents or guardians.

School Retrofit and Autism Class Projects

- The majority of works have been completed for both summer projects. New windows and doors and the commissioning of the heating system both still have to be completed this autumn.

Parents' Association and Board of Management

- The Parents' Association AGM, to elect committee members and helpers, takes place on Wednesday the 24th of September at 7.30pm in the school hall. All parents and guardians are automatically members of the Parents' Association. The committee will have tea, coffee & cake for all who attend. All are welcome.
- We have a brilliant Parents' Association who support the working of our school in so many ways. Their activities include organising our annual Slane Castle 5K, Book Rental sub committee, Halloween party, December Bake Sale, fundraising clothes collections and policy development. They also assist at school events when called upon.
- The committee meets each month and I attend to update members on school activities, events and plans.
- As part of this meeting, nominations will be sought from parents for persons to stand for election as a father nominee on the school's Board of Management and a ballot will take place on the night, if needed. The Board runs our school and has eight members who meet a number of times each year. A vacancy has arisen as Richard Carolan's term as a father nominee ends. We would like to sincerely thank Richard for all his work and wisdom on our Board.
- After the meeting, I will be offering a short tour of the new building developments in our school that took place over the summer.

Other Items

- Pupils are not permitted to hand out **birthday party invitations and/or presents** on the school grounds.
- In addition, presents for staff are not required. A hand-written card is a lovely alternative.
- For egg lovers, 5th class will be trained up shortly to care for the hens, and eggs will be on sale. Thank you to the Jensen family for looking after them this summer, while works took place.
- All **updates, policies and school news** during the year can be found on our school website www.slanens.ie and on the Parent Association Facebook and Instagram pages. Monthly Principal PA meeting notes will be available on the website after the first Thursday of every month.



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- Please label all clothing with washing machine proof labels or markers. So many pieces of uniforms went unclaimed last year.

Upcoming Dates Not On School Calendar

- Friday 24th of October - Presidential election. School closed for polling station
- Tuesday 11th November – Junior infant immunisation vaccinations (consent forms sent home in advance)
- Wednesday 10th December – School closure for child protection training
- Wednesday 28th January – School closure for new curriculum training
- Thursday 26th of March @11am – provisional date for 6th class Confirmation
- Wednesday 29th April – School closure for new curriculum training
- Saturday 16th May – provisional date for 2nd class First Communion

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Please also find a letter attached to this email with all the extra-curricular activities available in St. Parick's National School this year.

Le gach deá ghuí

Paul O'Donnell

Principal and Board of Management Secretary



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