



Coinnigh an solas ar lasadh

St Patrick's National School

Collon Road, Slane, Co. Meath C15 NX78

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www.slanens.ie

Roll No: 18040L

Principal:

Paul O'Donnell

12/02/2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please find some school updates below:

Credit Union Quiz

Congratulations to our two Credit Union teams who participated in the Credit Union Quiz recently in DIFE College in Drogheda. Our senior team (Eoghan Green, Sam Tully, Joey Doyle & Noah Courtenay) had a very strong performance in a keenly contested section while our junior team (Bobby Coleman, Sadhbh Mulchrone, Aodh Flanagan and Ted McMahon) went one step further, coming 1st in the junior section. They now go on to represent the Drogheda District in the Credit Union Chapter final in the next few weeks. Thanks to all the staff for the preparation, including Ms. Gerrard, who co-ordinated the quiz teams.

French Lessons

Modern foreign languages will be introduced as a curriculum subject in the next few years. As an introduction to it, Mr. Ó Braonáin is teaching French to his 5th class for this and next term as a pilot project during school time.

Forest School Lessons

First class are also involved with a Forest School pilot project, led by Ms. Collins each Wednesday. Forest school is an outdoor, child-led learning approach in a woodland setting. Activities over the six-week block include den and shelter building, nature exploration, seasonal observations, games and storytelling, simple tool use (with safety rules) and fire awareness and outdoor cooking. Additional staff, including Ms. Coyle, Mrs. Carey, Mr. Flanagan and Mr. O' Connor are also assisting and we are grateful for their input.

Sing Out Loud

90 pupils from 3rd to 6th class have signed up to participate in the Sing Out Loud event on Sunday the 8th of March in the Tommy Leddy Theatre (TLT). Sing Out Loud is an exciting primary school music event where children perform together on a professional stage with live musicians. Pupils will sing a variety of songs they have learned in school on the day.

The Whole World in Our School

We are beginning a school project where pupils will share their family heritage, cultures, and countries of origin at school assemblies for the next number of months. The project promotes pride in identity and inclusion, helping pupils learn from one another and celebrate the diversity within our school community. Greetings in the languages of other countries will also be displayed outside each classroom.

Internet Safety

Pupils from 3rd to 6th class will be participating in an internet safety talk with an external facilitator early in the third term. In addition, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Fagan and Ms. Murphy are planning additional internet safety resources for classes on this important topic.



Proud of our school's achievements



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Bí Cineálta (Be Kind) Pupil Policy Review

A review of the school's anti-bullying policy, Bí Cineálta, has been undertaken by the student Wellbeing team, led by Cathy Carey. It has shown that pupils feel safe in the school, understand the policy and the role of the bystander but need more help with the language to use when issues with others come up. Our pupil friendly policy will also be translated into other languages.

Bus, Bike or Walk on Wednesday (BOWOW)

BOWOW returns on Wednesday the 25th of February and on each Wednesday afterwards until Easter. Please find the BOWOW map attached as part of this email.

- By walking, scooting or cycling to school children get regular exercise, learn about road safety and pedestrian skills and become more conscious of levels of traffic congestion and air pollution in their local environment.
- The Walking Bus is a group of children who walk to school at set times with set stops, supervised by their parents and guardians. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to join the walking bus. Please find attached the routes and times of the walking bus each Wednesday.
- If you are not on a walking route or if the times do not suit, you are still more than welcome to walk your own child to school each Wednesday.
- For those living further away from the school, we would encourage you to park and walk, scoot or cycle to school, instead of driving directly to the school car park.
- The Green School committee will record the total amount of pupils using the initiative and record the results over the weeks ahead.
- We also hope that the initiative will encourage pupils and their parents/guardians to use these alternative travel methods every day of the week.

School Closures

The school will be closed on the following dates this and early next month:

- **Thursday the 19th and Friday the 20th of February** for the mid-term break.
- **Friday the 6th of March** for whole school staff autism training

All other school updates are available at www.slanens.ie including monthly school updates each month delivered at Parents' Association meetings, which are available at www.slanens.ie/information/parents-association

Le gach dea-ghuí

Paul O'Donnell

Principal and Board of Management Secretary



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