

Back To School Information 2026-2027

24-08-2026

Good morning,

The temperature is cooling, the days are getting shorter and there are lots of ads for uniforms, shoes and lunch boxes. It can mean only one thing: it is time to go back to school!

Welcome back for another school year. Some back to school updates:

School Uniform and Crests

Our school uniform details are available [here](#) Full uniform is expected from day one in school. Generic uniforms can, of course, be purchased but must have the school crest on the uniform top. They are available in the school office for €3. We will have a pop-up school crest shop in the school car park this Thursday, the 27th of August from 10-12pm to purchase crests. It will be cash only.

Pupil Expenses on Aladdin App

You will have received a notification in the Aladdin app for school expenses. We would appreciate it if they were paid as promptly as possible. Many thanks to all parents who have paid them for the coming school year to date. The expenses pay for Art materials, pupil insurance, and photocopying, which are not covered by our core funding. The pupil insurance covers your child 24 hours per day for the full year, in school and out. If your child gets injured and requires medical or dental intervention, please let us know and we can send you a claim form for expenses.

School Car Park

We have a lot of traffic to school on the first few days school, especially with poor weather. Please assume that there will be no parking in the school car park in the early days in the mornings and drop and go will only be available, as we now have a larger staff and construction workers in The Community Centre. Please be cautious of pedestrians, scooters and cyclists in the car park.

School Return Dates & Times

Class	Date	Times
Senior infants – 6 th & autism class	Monday 31 st August onwards	09.20-14.00 (infants) 09.20-15.00 (1 st -6 th class)
Junior Infants	Monday 31 st August	10.00– 12.00
Junior Infants	Tuesday 1 st -Friday 4 th September	09.20 – 12.00
Junior Infants	Monday 7 th September onwards	09.20 – 14.00

Please drop your child at the school gate. There will be signs for each class in the yard.

Parents of new junior infant pupils can drop them at the gate or escort their children to the classroom at 10am.

Please wait at the main gate to collect at 12pm. On morning two, please drop them at the gate where senior pupils will be waiting to bring them to their line.

New Staff

We have a number of new staff appointments at our school.

1. Rob Colmery is our new caretaker
2. Sinéad McNeely has been appointed as an SNA in another school and is replaced by Laura Cullen



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St Patrick's National School

Slane, Co. Meath

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

3. Susan Meehan is a newly appointed SNA
4. Amy Ennis continues on leave until after the Christmas break. Rachael Kelly will be the replacement teacher in 1st class until then.

PA First Day Coffee Morning

Our Parent's Association are kindly hosting tea and coffee in the school hall from 9.20am onwards, as well as for parents of new infants at 10am. Many thanks to them for giving up their time for the event.

School Hot Meals

Hot school meals will again be available for every child, every day, for no charge. Please use The Lunch Bag app to order meals. Any parent who does not currently have access to The Lunch Bag app should pack a lunch for their child. We will give forms to new children to bring home to activate The Lunch Bag app so orders can be made. If you wish to opt out of the scheme for this year, even if you already opted out in previous years, please email office@slanens.ie.

School Book Scheme

Thanks to the extraordinary work of our Parent's Association Book Scheme committee, all books, copies, and stationery will be available for your child in their classroom on their first day.

Attendance

The more times a child attends school, the better their educational outcomes. There has been an alarming drop in pupil attendance since Covid-19. Outside of genuine illness and appointments, the most common trends are extended weekends with absences on Mondays and Fridays and blocks of time for holidays. We will be notifying parents when children have missed 10 and 15 days and are obliged to notify the authorities when 20 days or more have been missed.

Other Reminders

- **Jewellery and make up** - as per our uniform policy, only stud earrings are to be worn. Necklaces, hooped or drooping earrings, and rings can get damaged and pose a health and safety issue during play. Make up and fake nails are also not permitted.
- **Toys** – toys, teddies, fidget toys, blocks of markers, or other personal items should not be brought to school in case they get lost or damaged. Children, where any of these items are recommended, as part of a professional recommendation, will be treated separately.
- **Birthday invitations** – birthday invitations are not given out in school. However, there are class Whatsapp groups set up by the Parents' Association for this, and other communication reasons. If you are not on the class group of your child, please contact paslanens@gmail.com
- **Gifts for staff** – please refrain from buying gifts for staff. We are happy to do our job without them. However, cards or notes are always welcome.
- **Mobile phones & smart watches** – see below.

Code of Behaviour Review

Late last year, the staff and Board of Management (who run the school) discussed changes to the school's code of behaviour. Please find a copy of the draft changes attached. The main changes are:

- A more concise and reader friendly policy with five main school rules.



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- A new section on supporting children with additional needs while also implementing the code of behaviour.
- The gradual permanent removal of mobile phones, smart watches and any other communicative digital devices from school. Currently, pupils are not permitted to use communicative digital devices during school time but can apply to bring them to school to be kept in the teacher's drawer during the day. We have had a number of incidents of phones in bags not handed up and then going missing, recordings being made during class, and phone calls being made during school time. The following is the proposed timeline for their removal:
 1. 2026-2027 – 3rd to 6th class pupils can apply to bring devices to school and hand them up to staff during the day
 2. 2027-2028 – 4th to 6th class pupils have permission for above
 3. 2028-2029 – 5th and 6th class pupils have permission for above
 4. 2029-2030 - 6th class pupils have permission for above
 5. 2030-2031 onwards - no pupil has permission to bring devices to school under any circumstance.

If you have any observations on the policy, please email them to office@slanens.ie

Updates

Please find further updates on our school website www.slanens.ie, including the construction of our new outdoor play structure in the senior yard, funded by the Parents' Association. We look forward to welcoming your child or children back on Monday the 31st of August for the new school year.

Kind regards,

Paul O'Donnell
Principal



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