

Welcome

Fáilte rómhaibh go léir ar ais ar scoil! We've had a wonderful start back to the new year and we are delighted to welcome all our returning children & families, as well as, extend a very big welcome to those who are joining our school for the first time this year. We would also like to welcome onboard our new staff members this year, let's look forward to a fantastic year ahead learning together.

A lot of recruitment has taken place over the summer months and as we look to the year ahead we are very well placed to meet the needs of all children across our school. We will have a full Special Education Team to support students who require and benefit from additional support. In addition to this, the Board of Management have also introduced maximum class sizes for 24-25 and beyond which aims to reduce all classes to a maximum of 24 students.

This will support class teachers in meeting the needs of a greater number of students in class.

Attendance

Every year primary schools report the total number of days lost through absence by submitting an Annual Attendance Report (AAR) at the end of the academic year. In 2023-24 almost 7,000 school days were missed in Lucan ETNS, this was a slight improvement on the year previous and equates to 17 days absence per child/year. The level of absenteeism is a cause for concern and something we must address. We would like to put a big emphasis on improving our level of attendance this year and we will need to consult further with students and parents to find ways to promote attendance.

Assemblies & Values 24-25

Junior & Senior Assemblies will continue to take place every Monday and may focus on our Values or the Learn Together curriculum. There will be opportunities for classes to perform and share their learning too. All

performances will start at 9:15 and grand/parents of the class performing are very welcome to attend. Our Values for the year ahead are: Kindness, Respect, Forgiveness, Empathy, Courage, Honesty & Endurance. Please see below dates for Term 1 Assemblies, Term 2 & 3 Assemblies are available to view on the school website calendar.

Dates for your Diary

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- Girls GAA v Eiscir Riada: 18/09/24 @14:00
 - Boys GAA v Grifteen Valley: 19/09/24 @13:00
 - Swimming Starts: 19/09/24 Rang Brigid & Rang Fódla
 - Violin lessons start 3rd Class: 20/09/24
 - Rang Cúchulainn Class Assembly: 23/09/24 @9:15
 - Tag Rugby Starts: 24/09/22 2nd, 5th & 6th Class
 - Girls GAA v Adamstown Castle: 25/09/24 @12:00
 - PTA Evening: 25/09/24 @19:00
 - ANA Appreciation Day : 26/09/24
 - Boys GAA v Esker: 26/09/24 @13:45
 - Spanish lessons commence 5th & 6th: 27/09/24
 - Rang Aengus Class Assembly: 30/09/24 @9:15

Rang Cúchulainn/Séamus - 23/09/24

Rang Aengus/Sarah O' - 30/09/24

Rang Boann/Amanda - 21/10/24

Rang Dagda/Maeve - 11/11/24

Rang Tara/Muireann - 25/11/24

Rang Eostre/Ruth & Catriona - 2/12/24

Morning Arrival - Collection

It's important to get off to a good start and show consideration for local residents, we always want to be good neighbours. Please be mindful at morning arrival and collection if you are arriving by car and if possible park a short distance from the school. Gates are opening slightly earlier at 8:30 this year, this is aimed to reduce a build up of traffic and maintain a safe space. I would ask that children do not arrive to the school gate unnecessarily early.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Volunteers

We are very lucky to have so many parents & grandparents willing to give their time to volunteer in school and the children love the opportunity to read with an adult. If you would be interested in reading with our children or volunteering in any capacity please contact the school office or email info@letns.org and we will be able to provide you with Garda vetting application forms. As always your support is greatly appreciated.

School Playground

The school playground and outdoor classroom is a fantastic area and resource for our children. We have recently introduced a trampoline also which is intended to support children who benefit greatly from proprioceptive activities.

The school playground and trampoline are only permitted to be used by children enrolled in the school under staff supervision. Children not enrolled in the school are not permitted to use these resources even under parent/guardian supervision. I thank you for your understanding and cooperation regarding this matter.

Sensory Corridors

Thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of our PTA, installation of the sensory corridors started during the summer break. The sensory paths have brought a lot of colour and fun to our school and will be a great tool to support our children for years to come. We still have more to add to our corridors in the coming weeks!



Goodbye For Now

Today we are saying goodbye to our colleague Anna. Anna has brought a great deal of knowledge and support to our whole school in her time with us and she will be greatly missed by all. Anna has made a lasting impression on the children she has taught and they will be equally sad to see her go. We would like to wish Anna the very best on her next chapter.

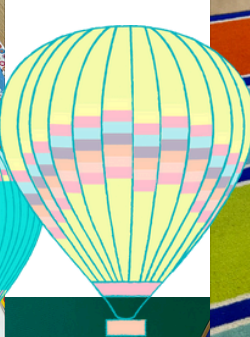
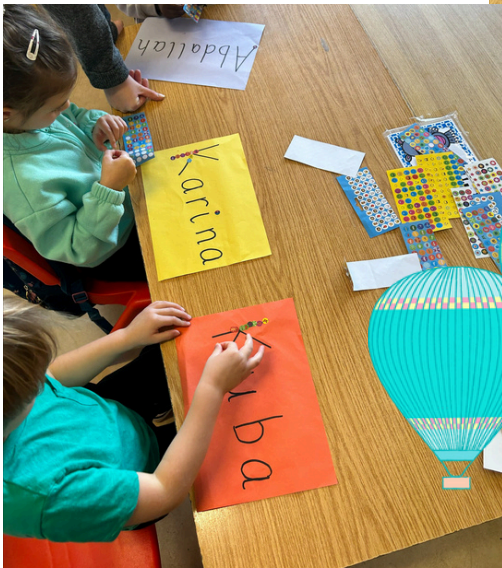


Girls & Boys GAA

There is great excitement across the school after our girls and boys football teams started the season with fantastic results in their opening games. We are very proud of all the children who represented the school so well and there is no doubt that we have future county stars in our ranks! Well done to all and best of luck in your next outing!

Sixth Class 2031/32

We would like to wish our new Junior Infants the very best as they commence their 8 year journey in Lucan. Oh the places you'll go!





Student Council

September 15th is International Day of Democracy and next week in Lucan ETNS we will hold our student council elections. Enacting democracy ensures that our children learn important life-skills such as handling disagreements in a respectful way. Children will have an opportunity to deliver speeches to their class and outline the qualities they would bring to the Student Council.

BOM Agreed Reports (July & September)

July



The Board of Management met in the school on Thursday the 4th July 2024. Below is their Agreed Report:

- The Board would sincerely like to thank Martina, Yvonne, Donal & Anne Marie for their significant contribution to Lucan ETNS, as well as, wish them all the very best for the future.
- The Board learned that all fixed term and permanent teaching/ANA positions have been filled for 2024-25.
- The Board discussed progress made to date by the EXEC/BOM working group regarding the land adjacent to the school and what further steps are to be taken to try and secure the site.
- The Board learned of the works taking place across the school during the summer, painting of repaired plaster works and staffroom, installation of sensory corridors, upgrading of the school Wi-Fi network and a whole school deep clean in August.
- The Board discussed the importance of engaging with the school community in the event that the school is approved for the hot school meals programme in 2024/25. Standards and expectations must be agreed in advance of going out to tender.
- The Board discussed the Annual Attendance Return and the need to place a greater focus on school attendance among the entire school community in 2024/25. The Board learned that almost seven thousand school days had been missed in 2023/24 which averages out at 17 days per pupil. The school Attendance Policy will be published at the start of the school year and has been informed through consultation with students.
- The Board discussed the opportunity to meet with all stakeholders (PTA/BOM/EXEC) on the 25th September 2024 to identify present and future priorities along with current challenges. The Board hope that this occasion will provide the school community with a clear vision for the year ahead and create an opportunity to initiate meaningful change for the benefit of all children in our school.
- The Board are pleased to learn that the school has been approved for 'Say Yes to the Language' programme for 2024/25. Students in 5th & 6th Class will learn Spanish over a 10 week block.
- The Board also learned that the NCSE Sustained Support Therapy application has been submitted.
- The Board discussed the possibility of introducing school sportswear in 2024/25. The Board believe this would be a popular option among many students and create a great sense of pride and belonging in our school. Sample sizes would need to be provided prior to placing orders to gauge level of interest and it would be entirely optional.
- The Board approved the updated Admission of Medicines Policy and it is now available to view on the school website.
- Finally, the Board would like to congratulate our current Sixth Class students on their recent graduation and wish them well as they commence their secondary school journey.

September

The Board of Management met in the school on Thursday the 5th September 2024. Below is their Agreed Report:

- The Board discussed communication from the Minister for Education regarding keeping childhood smartphone free. The Board agreed that we need to consult with all stakeholders regarding this matter and develop a shared plan of action.
- The Board were pleased to learn that the school was successful in our application for Sustained Support from the NCSE, however, it is disappointing that this support will not be delivered this academic year. The Board agreed to continue to employ the services of a private SLT to support students and OT supports will also be sought.
- The Board discussed the need to consult further with students and parents regarding promoting attendance.
- The Board discussed staffing for 2024/25 and would like to welcome all new members of staff to our school. The Board were pleased to learn that the school will be fully staffed in the coming weeks and a strong special education team is in place to support children in 24/25.
- The Board were notified of the start dates for curriculum enrichment programmes which are taking place this Term and hope the children enjoy these experiences: Rugby/GAA/Spanish/Violin/Swimming.
- The Board learned that the school's incoming SENO for 24/25 is Christine Connolly.
- The Board have sought clarity from the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) regarding the reinstatement of a NEPS psychologist for the school in 24/25.
- The Board are pleased to see the return of a varied ECA programme starting on the 16th September 24.
- The Board discussed a collaboration meeting with the PTA, BOM and EXEC on the 25th September and would like as many parents to attend as possible to review the previous year, as well as, identify shared priorities for the year ahead.
- The Board would like to thank the EXEC for overseeing painting works completed during the summer.
- The Board were also pleased to learn that the Sensory Paths have been installed and further resources will be installed once they are delivered. The Board would like to thank the PTA for their enormous contribution in creating these engaging spaces in our school.
- The Board welcomed the installation of safety bollards outside of the school by SDCC and hope they maintain a safe space for all arriving and departing.
- The Board were pleased to learn that the school's application for funding to upgrade of sensory room was approved and upgrades will take place during the academic year.
- The Board would like to congratulate Aishling McKinney on her recent engagement.
- The Board adopted the 'Working Together' procedures regarding staff relations.
- The Board also approved the school's Admission's Notice for 25/26 and included rationale regarding maximum class sizes in 24/25.
- Finally, the Board would like to welcome back all students and staff and wish everyone the best for the year ahead.