

# LUCAN ETNS

January 17th 2025



## Welcome

I would like to wish everyone a very warm welcome back and I hope you all have a healthy and happy 2025. Our school community has faced a difficult start to the year as we mourned the loss of our dear friend Derek. Derek was hugely respected and admired by colleagues, children and parents. It is fitting that our value for the start of the year is Courage, a value which Derek demonstrated throughout his life and during his illness. I would like to thank our entire school community for the care and love shown towards Derek's family and to all in Lucan ETNS during this period. In times of great sadness there is always hope. The overwhelming show of support befits Derek and is a reminder of the impact he has made in our lives and in our school. It also demonstrates the love and strength which exists among our school community.

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all staff for the great kindness and care they have shown to all children and the support they have offered one another through a very difficult period. We are incredibly fortunate to have such an experienced team who create a safe and supportive environment. I would also like to thank NEPs for the support and advice they have provided to staff in recent weeks.

Looking forward this Term we will have our ANA review in the coming days and we hope to receive a positive outcome in terms of our allocation. We will also continue to put together our Bí Cineálta Policy with the support of our

student & parent/staff working groups. Soccer training has started back for both the boys and girls teams and we hope to receive our fixture list soon. Lastly, we will see the return of gymnastic lessons for Infants, 2nd and 4th classes later in the Term.



## Dates for your Diary

- Rang Fionn/Emma's Class Assembly - 20th January @9:15
- Cosáin Admissions Open - 20th January
- School Photos: individual & class - 28th January
- St Brigid's Day/school closed - 3rd February
- Rang Pádraig/Sarah's Class Assembly - 4th February @9:15
- Rang Brigid/Karen's Class Assembly - 10th February @9:15
- Mid-term break - 17th - 21st February
- School re-opens - 24th February

## Cosáin Admissions

The school's Admissions Notice is available to view on the school website. A reminder that admissions for our Cosáin Classes will open on the 20th of January and close on the 10th February. There must be a recommendation within a psychological assessment or a report from a member of a multi-disciplinary team that a special class placement in a mainstream school is both necessary and suitable for the child.



COUNTY PHOTOS  
THE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHERS



## School Photos

County photos will be in school on Tuesday January 28th to take pupil, sibling & class photos. A hard copy of sample photos will be shared to help you decide whether or not you would like to place an order.



## Lost & Found

Items in our lost & found will be placed at the front of the school next week for children & parents to recover lost items. I would again encourage everyone to ensure names are on items of clothing so they can be returned promptly.



## Sherpa Kids

Sherpa Kids is onsite at the school providing before school care from 7.30am, after school care until 6pm and holiday care for all school closures, from 8.30am to 5.30pm. Sherpa Kids provide a safe and fun environment for kids to play and socialise with pals. They supervise homework, provide a healthy snack and have an exciting programme of activities for the children to enjoy indoors and outdoors. All families are eligible for the National Childcare Scheme subsidy of €2.14 for every hour booked. This means an hour of care at Sherpa Kids cost €5.36. Sherpa Kids have a few remaining places for the school year and holiday care. They accept regular and casual bookings. They will have camps for all school closures including midterms, Easter and Summer. To make a booking contact Kerri on [Let@sherpakids.ie](mailto:Let@sherpakids.ie) or 087 3318352.

## Attendance 2024/25

I would like to thank everyone for their commitment to improving attendance this year. We have recorded increased levels of attendance every month against 2023/24 levels. Let's continue this very welcome trend for the remainder of the school year. Hopefully, our monthly rewards for the class with the most improved attendance will have a positive impact on attendance too. That being said, there is always going to be occasions when people are unwell and they should not attend if this is the case.

## School Biodiversity Plan

The school's Green Team under the guidance of Sarah & Aishling have produced a wonderfully detailed Biodiversity Plan. You can view the plan by clicking on the image at the side. If you could help the Green Team deliver on their targets for the year ahead please contact the school office. Many thanks.



## Parental Survey - Bí Cineálta

I would like to thank all parents who responded to the survey regarding the prevalence of bullying and the existing support structures in our school. The feedback is very helpful and will help to inform the creation of our new Bí Cineálta policy. If you would like to contribute/support the school in the putting our new policy together please contact the school office and we will arrange dates for our working group to meet this Term. Many thanks.



# BOM Agreed Report



The Board of Management met online on Thursday, 9th January 2025. Below is their agreed report:

- The Board would like to offer their sincere condolences to Derek Mannion's family and friends on his recent passing. Derek's enormous contribution to the school community in his role as a teacher and as a member of the Executive Committee was recognised, as well as, his positive influence on the school culture. The Board would like to thank all those who have sympathised with staff in recent days which has brought solace and due recognition of an esteemed colleague and friend. The Board agreed that in time the school should hold a whole school community event to recognise Derek's significant contribution and influence.
- The Board would like to sincerely thank all staff for the great care and support they have demonstrated through what has been a very difficult period.
- The Board would also like to thank National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) for the support offered during this period to the school staff.
- The Board discussed the approval of 14 solar panels through the Dept. Solar Panel scheme and agreed that greater investment is required to expand the project to create a meaningful impact on our energy usage. The Board will continue to liaise with the Dept. approved provider to determine the level of initial investment required and estimated time frame for payback on such an investment.
- The Board were pleased that emergency funding was approved and received by the Dept. to cover the total cost of replacing the Hall lights with more energy efficient LED lights.
- The Board approved the identification of duties after staff consultation for two vacant APll posts in the school.
- The Board reviewed the Green Schools detailed Biodiversity Plan and are looking forward to seeing the plan progress throughout the year. The Board would like to thank Aishling & Sarah for leading the Green Team and for creating such a thorough resource for the school community to reference.
- The Board learned that all places for Junior Infants 25/26 have been allocated, a waiting list is also in place.
- The Board also discussed Cosáin enrolments opening on the 20th of January 2025 and the expected number of available places in 25/26.
- The Board reviewed attendance figures for November & December and are very pleased to see a continued improvement year on year. The Board would like to thank everyone for their commitment to improving attendance.
- The Board learned that some members of staff recently attended Restorative Practice (RP) training and that all staff will take part in RP training later this month. The Board agreed that RP is consistent with our Ethos and will support the introduction of the Bí Cineálta policy in 25/26.
- The Board approved a whole school subscription to MyOT&Me which will offer support and provide training opportunities for all staff.
- The Board would like to thank the SET team for the enormous amount of work they have put into the school's ANA review. The Board hope that this review will have a positive impact on our current ANA allocation.
- The Board would like to thank Barbara Sharkey for overseeing ECA, as well as, securing significant financial savings for the school through identifying and securing improved rates from Gas & Electricity suppliers and agreeing a new lease agreement for our photocopiers with reduced printing costs.

- The Board discussed survey results from staff on the topic of Homework and look forward to learning the views of parents on the topic too alongside evidence-based research to support any developments in the area.
- The Board are also very supportive of the PTA surveying parents across a range of topics to gauge opinions and promote engagement.
- The Board are looking forward to the Valentine Bake Sale and the Easter Raffle this Term and would like to thank the PTA for leading these events.
- The Board learned that the Student Council met with White Rabbit Upcycling to share their library design ideas and are looking forward to seeing the draft plans once they are complete and supporting the progression of the project.
- The next Board meeting will take place on the 27th of February 2025.