

School Newsletter

September 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year.

Firstly, we would like to welcome the sixteen new children that started in Junior Infants so far, our new girl in Rang 3 and our nine new little friends in Preschool Lachtaín, and all of their parents and families to our Scoil Lachtaín community. The children have made a fine start and have all settled in very well. We'd also like to welcome back all of our other pupils and staff after their summer break. Three teachers are on leave and the following teachers are covering their classes:

- **Mr. David McGuire** - Senior Infants
- **Ms. Róisín Lawlor** – Rang 5
- **Ms. Katie Byrne** – Preschool 1

A new teaching post was created with the opening of Preschool 3 this year and we welcome **Mr. Cian Mullally** to our staff. We welcome **Ms. Ruth Levins** and **Ms. Lucy Burke** to our SNA team. Finally, we welcome **Ms. Eileen Webster** to our team of Bus Escorts. Welcome back to our visiting SEN teachers Ms. C.Burke, Ms. S O'Connor, Ms. E. Robinson and Ms. E.Butler who will be replacing Ms. Deasy for this year.

Work continued in our school over the summer. Our caretakers, Frank and Michael, together with our contract cleaners (Clean Master) were busy cleaning all areas, both inside and out. The floors were scrubbed and polished. Our original Preschool 1 classroom has been updated as the new Preschool 3 classroom with the construction underway of a new exit door into our courtyard.



The school garden is in its autumn phase, giving a last explosion of colour before the frost arrives. It's fantastic to see the interest shown by the children, both young and old. Our sunflowers, planted by last year's Rang 2/3 and Senior Infants greeted us on our return, as did Rang 5's bumper crop of radishes and beetroot.

Our new **school orchard** was given great care and water by Frank, our caretaker, over the summer period.

From my communications with you, both by email and also on our website, Covid 19 restrictions are still very much in place here in school. We began the term as we finished in June. Thank you

for your co-operation and vigilance. Please continue to be careful. Watch your child for any symptoms and keep him/her at home as necessary. The most up to date guidance issued by the Dept. of Education and the HSE is on our website in the Covid 19 Section.

<https://freshfordns.weebly.com/return-to-school-covid-19.html>

A big thank you for your efforts to ensure that your children look resplendent in their school uniforms. It's much appreciated.

I'm delighted to say that we have been able to start using our new Activity Trail Playground Equipment, and the children are having a ball!

We will be writing our new School Development Plan 2022-2025 during this term and I hope that as many of you respond with suggestions as you did three years ago. More information will follow soon.

Can I please seek your assistance with the following:

- ❖ We are currently beginning a review of our **Anti-bullying Policy**. Please familiarise yourself with our procedures, the steps to take and advice should your child experience any difficulties. Your experiences, input and comments would be greatly welcomed to help us in our work. Please email them as soon as possible to me at emurphy@stlachtainsns.ie
- ❖ **Please Drop and Go:** It is proving very difficult for staff to park in the church car park in the mornings with the number of parents in cars waiting to drop off children. The teachers need to be in place to receive the children. If you could please time your drop offs for no earlier than 9.10am, it would assist greatly. Entry to school at present is from 9.10am until 9.30 am.
- ❖ **Please as always be vigilant of children and adults crossing the car park areas.**
- ❖ Can you all please check your Aladdin accounts and complete any **outstanding absence forms and declarations** for return to school or general absences. It just takes a moment and is very important. This replaces our Orange Absence Card.

Regarding our **First Communion**, as soon as we have a date, we will let you know.

Finally, may I wish all in our school community a happy and safe school year. The door is always open (by email or phone at the moment!!) if you need to share any concerns and we will try to help in any way possible.

Kind regards,

Brendan Tynan