

School Newsletter

September

September 2023

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year.

Firstly, we would like to welcome the eighteen new children that started in Junior Infants, our three new children in the other classes, 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 members of staff are currently Job Sharing / taking Parental Leave, and the following teachers are covering:

Mr. David McGuire – Rang 6 (September 2023 to May 2024)

Ms. Julie Bryan – SET (Special Ed. Teacher) - We welcome Julie. She is job-sharing with Ms. Claire Doyle this year.

Farwell to our friend and colleague, Ned Kennedy

It was with great sadness that we heard of Ned's very brief illness and his passing, a few days before our return to school. Most of you will know that Ned was, for many years, a teacher, and later, deputy principal in our school. Ned was well loved and respected by all. Since retiring at Easter 2015, he remained a frequent visitor, our 'go to' for all things historical and most of all, a friend to us all in Scoil Lachtaín. His final visit was on the day before the summer holidays when his arrival coincided with the arrival of the ice-cream van. The infant children, playing in the front yard began to form a line in front of him when he entered the yard as they thought he was the ice-cream man, which greatly amused Ned.

We extend our prayers and heartfelt sympathy to Eileen and his family. He will always be part of the fabric of Scoil Lachtaín. We will miss Ned greatly. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Sensory Garden Update



From our Summer Newsletter, you'll know about the development of our Sensory Garden in the Courtyard. It continued to bloom over the summer.



Our caretakers, Frank, Michael and Gary, were busy cleaning all areas of the school, both inside and out. They were also on watering duty in the garden, and between them and the rain, the beds are looking terrific. We thank them for having the place looking so well for our return.

Health Matters

While Covid Cleaning Grants to schools from the Dept. of Education have now ended, our Board of Management have agreed that our cleaning regime will continue for the current school year. Thank you for your continuing co-operation and vigilance regarding illnesses.

We have a number of children in the school who are immunocompromised at the moment. Please continue to be careful. Watch your child for any symptoms of illness and keep him/her at home as necessary.

See **'Management of Infectious Diseases in Schools' Guidance Document 2015**

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/lifestages/schoolhealth/File,14304,en.pdf>

to help answer any questions you may have regarding illnesses, whether or not, and when, to send your child to school.

Continue to advise them to maintain a good standard of hand hygiene and to adhere to good respiratory etiquette at all times.

Our New School Uniform

A big thank you for your efforts to ensure that your children look resplendent in their new school uniforms. It's much appreciated. Their own responses to them have been very positive.

New Mathematics Curriculum

The Department of Education has published a new maths curriculum for children in primary and special schools. The curriculum sets out what children will learn in maths in every school. School leaders and teachers will explore and become familiar with the new curriculum during the 2023/2024 school year and will work towards implementation of the curriculum from Stages 1 - 4 (junior infants to sixth class) from September 2024. More information will follow as we work through the process. There will be a one-day closure for staff training later in the year. I'll calendar it in when we receive a date from the Department of Education.

Free Hot Lunches

Please ensure that you've read the emails sent detailing the availability of **free hot lunches for all children in the school (including Preschool)**. This is part of the resources being offered to our school under the Rural DEIS scheme. Follow the link provided, go online and register to choose from the extensive menu offered.

The children seem to be enjoying the meals. Your feedback will be invaluable. The school and Fresh Today, our suppliers, worked very hard to get things in place for our new school term. Many thanks to Brian, Shona, and all the team at Fresh Today, and a special thank you to Susan, our secretary, for all her hard work.

All we ask from our side is that the children enjoy the lunches and that, as they'll be taking the packaging home with them each day, you will be able to monitor what they're eating, or not, as the case may be.

Anti-bullying Policy

We are currently beginning our annual review of our **Anti-Bullying Policy** (available on our website) Please re-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 Ms. Murphy at emurphy@stlachtainsns.ie

Child Protection

The Department of Education has in place *Guidelines and Procedures for all schools in relation to Child Protection & Welfare*, which promote the welfare of all children.

The Board at Scoil Lachtaín has adopted these guidelines as school policy.

If there is a matter of concern in relation to abuse of children we are obliged to report this to the HSE. They will assess the case and provide the necessary support for the child concerned.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the school Principal, Mr. Brendan Tynan, and the Deputy DLP is the Mrs. Róisín Bolger.

School Opening Time

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 is from 9.10am. Thank you for your continued co-operation in this.
- ❖ School begins at **9.20am**. Please ensure punctuality.
- ❖ ***As always, please be vigilant of children and adults crossing the car park and drop-off areas.***

Attendance

All schools are obliged by law to report to the National Educational Welfare Board those children who are absent from school for twenty days or more during any school year. Parents/Guardians will be notified when such action has been taken.

If at all possible, please avoid taking the children out of school for holidays during term time.

Aladdin

Can you all please check your Aladdin accounts on a regular basis for emails and upcoming payments. When your child is absent, completion of absence forms on Aladdin is vitally important. It just takes a moment and forms part of the details for completion of Absence

Returns which we are obliged to make to Túsla should your child be absent for 20 days or more. Emails regarding pupils with absences over 20 days for the last school year will automatically issue to parents.

Confirmation and First Communion

Confirmation, this year, will be celebrated by our new Bishop, Niall Coll. The schedule will be sent to us in late October. As all confirmations will be celebrated by the bishop, some schools will be allocated weekend dates and others week days. **We have no say in the process.**

We will finalise a date for our First Communion in the coming fortnight. Generally, this takes place in May.

Music with Margaret

Our Choir and Recorder lessons with Margaret will recommence next week. Susan will send out details via Aladdin.

Finally, may I wish all in our school community a happy and safe school year. The door is always open if you need to share any concerns and we will try to help in any way possible.

Kind regards,

Brendan Tynan (Principal)

“Every sunrise is a reminder of a new chance to shine.”