

School Newsletter

September

September 2022

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year.

Firstly, we would like to welcome the twenty new children that started in Junior Infants, our six new children in the other classes, and our ten 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. Four members of staff are currently taking leave and the following teachers and SNAs are covering:

Mr. David McGuire - Senior Infants

Ms. Vanessa Clarke – Preschool 2

Ms. Claire Fortune (SNA) -Preschool 1

Ms. Olwyn Bergin (SNA) -Preschool 2

Two new teaching posts were created. With the opening of our eight mainstream classroom this year due to an increase in pupil numbers last September, we welcome **Mr. Kevin Shortall (Rang 1)** to our staff. We welcome **Ms. Katie Byrne** back as our new, third Special Education Teacher. She will join the SET team together with Mrs. Bolger and Mrs. O' Neill. Finally, we welcome **Ms. Áine Gleeson** to Preschool 1. Áine is job-sharing with Ms. Claire Doyle this year.

We send our congratulations and very best wishes to Ms. Rachel Dowling, Ms. Mary Evelyn Drennan and Ms. Paula Kavanagh on the births of their babies over the summer.

Work continued in our school over the summer. Our caretakers, Frank, Michael and Gary, together with contract cleaners (Clean Master) were busy cleaning all areas, both inside and out. We thank them for having the place looking so well for our return.

While Covid restrictions have been removed throughout the school, our cleaning regime will continue. The Dept. has announced the payment of a combined Covid Cleaning and PPE grant

for the autumn term. We began 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. Continue to advise them to maintain a good standard of hand hygiene and to adhere to good respiratory etiquette at all times. We're awaiting an update to the Response Plan for school from the DES at the moment.

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

We will be writing our new School Development Plan 2022-2025 during this term and I hope that as many of you as possible have responded with suggestions via the online survey emailed to you last term. More information will follow as we work through the process.

Can I please seek your assistance with the following:

- ❖ Please ensure that you've read the emails sent over the last few days detailing the availability of **free school 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 menu offered. Over the next few weeks, Kelly, at Pat Long Catering, will work with us to fine tune all parts of the process and the menu provided. Your feedback will be invaluable. The management there have been working very hard to get things in place for our school. Many thanks to them for that. 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, that you will be able to monitor what they're eating, or not as the case may be.
- ❖ We are currently beginning a 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
- ❖ **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.**

- ❖ 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. In most cases last year, the absences were as a consequence of Covid 19 illness or isolation.

- ❖ Members of our victorious **Kilkenny Camogie Team** will visit on Wednesday 14th September. In celebration of the girls' fantastic achievement, instead of wearing our uniforms on the day, the children may dress in Black and Amber, if they so wish.

- ❖ **Over the coming weeks we expect to enrol a number of children from Ukraine. In order to keep expenses down for them, if you have spare, good quality uniform jumpers (or other elements of our school uniform) that you no longer require, could you please drop us an email detailing size and item available. If we have a little database like this, it may prove really helpful.**

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