



Lucan Educate Together Newsletter September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A very warm welcome back to you all to our school for the new school year. It is really great to see everyone re-connecting again and to hear the laughter, chat and play of our children in and around the school grounds. So far Staff and children are adapting well to the new measures and practices in place and hopefully everyone is feeling a little more relaxed now that the school has re-opened. A special welcome to all our new families who have joined the school. We are delighted to welcome you. Our little Junior Infants started yesterday and were really fantastic, despite not having the opportunity to visit the school or meet their teachers in advance of their first day. We hope despite the necessary restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 that you all feel very welcome and cared for during your time in our school. While access to the school is strictly restricted, it is important to stress that we are here to support you. Contact with the school can be made by phone call 016281298 or email to info@letns.org. Our school website is constantly being updated. This week we have added the following information :

Access Policy during Covid-19

Covid Response Plan as set out by the DES and our School Covid Policy Statement.

Letter from Dr. Ronan Glynn,(Acting Chief Medical Officer) to Parents/Guardians—issued on 31/08/2020

The key to success in keeping our school community safe is the consistent implementation of the safety measures in place. It is still very early days and we will be continuing to review our practices in the light of Staff observations and feedback from our school community. Two issues of concern at the moment:

Some congestion outside school gate at arrival and departure times—to alleviate this it is very important that children arrive a maximum 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time for their class. Most children from 1st to 6th are now able to walk independently from the school gate to their classroom. Staff will continue to be out on footpaths to assist if needed. Children scheduled to arrive at the later times of 9 and 9.10 a.m. should be leaving home 10 mins later than usual.

Parents coming into the school grounds to collect children at the end of the day are asked to social distance while waiting for children. Face coverings are also encouraged. Parents meeting children outside the school grounds should arrange a meeting point away from the school gates. Older children in senior classes are advised to meet Parents/Guardians further down the driveway, leaving the closer spots for younger children. We are continuing to encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school while weather permits.

Procedure for children arriving late to school.

Children arriving after 9.20 a.m. should enter through Reception. Parent accompanying children should wait outside the school door until child has been received into the school. Veronica/Barbara will sign child in on late arrival book .

Parents of children who have scheduled appointments early in the morning and will be arriving later than 9.30 a.m. should email the office with details of time due back at the school. Parent/Guardian should accompany child to school door. Veronica/Barbara will sign your child in at Reception.

It is important that we continue to limit interaction with outside visitors as far as possible. Parents who need to drop in essential items which children have forgotten to bring to school e.g. lunch, glasses, school bag should phone or email office in advance of arrival. A table will be left outside reception. You are asked to leave the item on the table with your child's name class clearly marked on it. We will arrange to have it brought to your child's classroom .

We welcome a number of new staff to our school, following our recruitment process over the Summer. We welcome Laura back from last year. We also welcome Caoimhe, Ciarán, Aisling, Niamh who have also joined our Special Education Team as well as Cathy who has joined us as SNA. It is great to have such a dedicated and hard working team and I want to thank all our Staff for their fantastic work and support during school closure and in advance of school re-opening. In our next newsletter, we will give you an overview of our key priorities for children's learning as we begin the new school year. Best wishes to you all for a safe and successful term ahead.

Kind regards, Mary