



Lucan Educate Together

Newsletter

January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year to you all and a very warm welcome to the new school term. As we begin, it is lovely to see everyone looking so refreshed and enthusiastic about the opportunities and challenges a new year can bring. We wish you all a very happy and healthy school term ahead and as always, we look forward to your involvement in the life of the school, which is hugely enriching for your child's education. So as we begin, we welcome you and your ideas in helping us continue to provide the best educational experiences for our children.

Our value for January is Motivation / Effort and classes have begun to discuss their goals and dreams for the new term and what can inspire us to stay focussed as the term progresses. The health and well-being of Staff and children is always one of our priority areas and no better time than January, to make a fresh start on these areas too. As we move towards the Spring our Green Team will be re-launching our WOW, COW,SOW (walk, cycle, scoot) and we will be looking at introducing some new sporting activities to keep children active throughout the day. Therese's 4th class and Deirdre / Eimear's 3rd class are looking forward to starting swimming lessons this Thursday 12th January .

We are also delighted to introduce the Food dudes initiative for all classes beginning next Monday, January 16th. This EU funded, Fruit and vegetable scheme, provides children with fruit and vegetable portions and aims to encourage good eating habits in children. While we took part in the scheme some years ago there is a new model whereby this is the first year of the new cycle of 3 years participation. The objective is to change children's behaviour regarding consumption of fruit and vegetables, hopefully resulting in the children enjoying fruit and veg more. The characters in the program encourage repeated tasting, role modeling and rewards. We want to instill a culture in our school that is strongly committed to healthy eating and this is a stepping-stone in the process. You will receive an information/ consent letter home with your child tomorrow .

Similar to other schools, we are struggling to find qualified substitute teachers to fill vacancies that arise on our Staff. This is an unfortunate situation which impacts on the level of additional support we can offer to children, as we are often left with no choice other than to re-deploy our SET team to cover mainstream classes .

We have a number of other vacant posts on our Staff, including part-time secretary, cleaning position, Assistant Principal and Deputy Principal posts. The process for filling these posts is in progress and will be finalised over the coming weeks .

Our Board of Management will have their first meeting of the term this Wednesday evening.

After School Activities is up and running this week . We are delighted to have a wide range of activities available for children to enjoy after their busy day at school . There are places available for some activities, please contact Barbara in the office, if you have any queries.

Outreach Enrolments:

Applications for places in our Outreach classes will be accepted from Monday 16th January to Monday 6th February. Application forms and information re. our Admission policy for Outreach classes will be available from Monday 16th January.

We are also continuing to accept applications for Junior Infants 2023. Forms are available on the school website

Student Teachers:

We are delighted to welcome two student teachers on placement to the school at the moment. Lauren is working in Laura's SI class and Isabella is working in Andrea's JI class. Thanks to both Laura and Andrea for facilitating the students in their class.

Lost Property

There is quite a lot of items in our lost property at this stage and we would encourage you to drop in and take a look, if your child has mislaid any items.

Illness:

We would remind you to please not send your child to school if they are feeling at all unwell. There is helpful information provided by the HSE on undertheweather.ie regarding colds, coughs, flu, rashes etc. If your child has a confirmed case of a contagious illness such as chicken pox, scarlet fever or even headlice, we would appreciate if you could let us know, so that we can advise the class of same.

