

## Welcome

The reopening of school is a red-letter day on the calendar every year. It marks new beginnings, a fresh start filled with opportunities and potential. I would like to welcome back all our returning children & families, as well as, extend a very big welcome to all those who are joining us for the first time. On a personal note, I am delighted to have been appointed as Principal of Lucan ETNS and to be joining such a wonderfully supportive staff and well established learning community.

## Recruitment - Teacher Shortages

As many of you may have read or heard in the news recently schools are facing significant challenges in filling vacant teaching posts at present. Lucan ETNS is no exception and although we have made some new appointments during the summer we are finding it incredibly difficult to fill all vacant positions. We are continuing to advertise posts in the hope of filling these positions. We have had to prioritise the allocation of class teachers to be able to re-open and provide as much consistency for the children as possible, however, this means we have a very depleted SET team. At our full complement we would have a SET team of seven who would be able to support children who need it the most, however, at present we are operating with just one. In addition to this the lack of available substitute teachers means that there may be days this year where we have no support teachers available. I think it's important that you, our school community, are aware of and understand that this situation which impacts on the learning of all children is outside of our control. We are asking a lot of our staff to help bridge the gap and to minimise the impact and we would welcome your support or your highlighting of this issue.

## Volunteers

We are looking for parent/grandparent volunteers to help us throughout the year. If you would be interested in reading with children or running an after-school activity please contact the school at [info@letns.org](mailto:info@letns.org) who will be able to provide you with Garda vetting application forms. Your support would be greatly appreciated so thank you in advance for your interest.

## Assemblies & Values 2023/24

Junior & Senior Assemblies will take place every Monday this year and will primarily focus on our Values for the year. There will be opportunities for classes to perform and share their learning too. The school calendar has the dates for all class performances and parents of the class performing are welcome to attend. Our Values for the year ahead are: Kindness, Respect, Gratitude, Self-Improvement, Showing Love, Inclusiveness & Fearlessness.



## Dates for your Diary

- GAA v LE ETNS: 21st September & v GV ETNS: 28th September
- Leinster Cricket (4th, 5th & 6th Class): 20th September
- Swimming Starts (AML 3rd Class & KH 4th Class): 21st September
- 6th Class (SL - 10:45) & 2nd Class (SO'R - 9:40) Assembly: 25th September
- GOAL Jersey Day: October 13th

# Morning Arrival - Gates

The school has received a number of concerns regarding overcrowding at the school gates in the morning. As a school we want to prevent the creation of an unsafe situation so we have spoken with our senior students (5th & 6th Class) and asked them to congregate away from the entrance gate so younger children and those with bikes/scooters may enter and leave the path accessible for all. We will continue to monitor the situation and are hopeful that this will be an adequate solution. Children with bikes/scooters should place them in the bike racks and return to the entrance. I would ask that children do not arrive to the school gate unnecessarily early. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



## Múinteoir Mail

Múinteoir Mail has been introduced to celebrate every child's learning and effort in all areas of the curriculum. All staff can post positive postcards to children which will then be delivered at our weekly assemblies.



## Items to Note

### Nut Free School

It is very important to note that Lucan ETNS is a nut free school. Can I ask for everyone to be mindful of what is packed in lunchboxes to keep everyone safe, many thanks.



### Communication Procedures

A reminder that all emails should be directed to [info@letns.org](mailto:info@letns.org) with your child's name and the class teacher in the subject line. Your child's class teacher will be able to answer most of your queries.

### Hand Towels Reminder

As previously communicated, we would really appreciate if all students could take a hand towel with them to school to reduce our reliance on paper towels and reduce waste.



### Bike Racks

A reminder to lock bikes and scooters in the bike rack every day. The school cannot assume responsibility for bikes/scooters left unlocked.

### Voluntary Family Contributions

The school will issue a text next week with a link to make a voluntary contribution on Way2Pay. The VC has been set to €100 to support meeting the school's running costs, your contribution is greatly appreciated.

### Roman Catholic (RC) Classes

Registration for children in 1st to 6th who wish to join in RC Classes is now open. RC classes will resume on Thursday 21st of September 2023 at 4.00 p.m (running until 4.50p.m.). These classes will be conducted via Zoom. If you wish your child to receive the sacraments that they enrol and attend RC classes from 1st class through to 6th class. Please email us on [letnsrc@gmail.com](mailto:letnsrc@gmail.com) for more information and to register."

## Focus Weeks/Events 2023/24

We have a number of focus weeks planned for the year ahead and the PTA will announce further events taking place throughout the year. Please see below an overview for the year ahead:

- Friendship & Anti-bullying Week (week beg. October 2nd)
- GOAI Jersey Day 13th October 2023
- World Book Day 7th March 2024
- Seachtain na Gaeilge (week beg. 11th March 2024)
- Neuro Diversity Week (week beg. 15th April 2024)
- Active Week incl. Sports Days (week beg. 27th May 2024)
- Sixth Class Graduation 25th June 2024

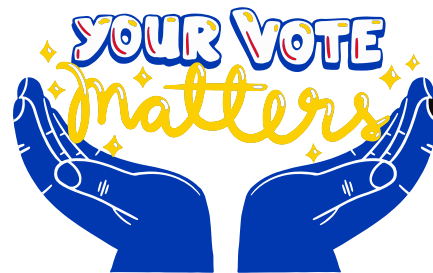
The school will also be taking part in Pieta's Amber Flag initiative this year, as well as, continuing our Green Schools progress and working towards a Primary Science Award.



# Student Council

On September 15th Lucan ETNS held student council elections. Enacting democracy ensures that our children learn important life-skills such as handling disagreements in a respectful way. Children had an opportunity to deliver speeches to their class and outline the qualities they would bring to the Student Council. Congratulations to our newly elected council for 2023/24!

- Fiona J.I. - Sophia Colucci
- Andrea J.I. - Yiskah Naidoo
- Laura S.I. - Emma Smith
- Aishling S.I. - Sam Lantry
- Martina 1st - Zoe Hyland
- Sarah Mc 1st - Cassie Kwiatkowska
- Sharon 2nd - Lily McMahon
- Sarah O 2nd - Amaiya Speight
- Deirdre/Eimear 3rd - Siomha Butler-O'Neill
- Anne-Marie 3rd - Shuban Ilamurugu
- Karen 4th - Emilia Siksnute
- Amanda 4th - Arya Verma
- Muireann 5th - Fatima Wasim
- Ruth/Catriona 5th - Apaar Kaur
- Siobhan 6th - Lucas Workineh & Hannah Hyland
- Séamus 6th - Edward Crainet & Alicia Otsu
- Anna's Class - Samuel Lowry



## GOAL Jersey Day



On the 13th of October Lucan ETNS will be taking part in GOAL's annual 'Jersey Day' fundraising campaign.

Thousands of people across Ireland will be coming together and wearing their favourite sports jerseys to support GOAL's work with vulnerable communities. We hope that we can contribute in a small way to support GOAL's work while wearing our club, county or country colours with pride. To contribute to our fundraising efforts please scan the QR code to make a donation. Collection buckets will also be available on the day should you wish to donate.





# Sixth Class 2030/31

We would like to wish our new Junior  
Infants the very best as they  
commence their 8 year journey in  
Lucan. Oh the places you'll go!





# BOM Agreed Report



The Board of Management met in the school on Wednesday, 6th September for their monthly meeting. Below is their agreed report:

Welcome back to all of our students, staff, parents, guardians, and to all in our school community. We hope that everyone had a relaxing summer break and are ready for the new school term. The Board of Management had their first meeting of the new school term on Wednesday, 6th September. We had a full agenda and many positive things to share with the school community.

- We are happy to announce the following appointments, starting in this new school term: Ultan Casey - Principal, Anna Doran - Class Teacher & Orla Grace - Class Teacher.
- The Board of Management would like to wish class teacher, Yvonne Naughton, the very best as she leaves to start her career break.
- Retirements: As you all know, our Principal, Mary retired at the end of August and we wish her every happiness in her retirement. We also said goodbye to Jenny Connolly, class teacher, and thank her for her hard work and dedication during her years at LETNS. Aiden Sherry, our cleaning supervisor has also retired after 18 years of service in LETNS. The Board wishes him the very best for the future. We also said goodbye to our Board Chairperson, Tina Stallard, who worked tirelessly on 4 Boards of Management over the years. The Board extends their heartfelt thanks for all the support and hard work that Tina did, for the benefit of our school over many years and wishes her the very best.
- There has been a very positive start to the school year and we look forward to the return of afterschool activities next week.
- The Board are pleased to announce the Junior Infant class meetings which will take place on the 15th of November. The Parent Teacher meetings will also take place during the week of 27th November.
- The current Board of Management Term is coming to an end on 30th November 2023. A new Board will then be appointed. There are vacancies which can be filled by the school community: Parent Representatives (1 male, 1 female), Community Representatives (1 male, 1 female), Chairperson of the Board. If you are interested, or would like further information as to what the roles would involve, please contact a member of our Executive Committee or email the Board of Management at: [bom@letns.org](mailto:bom@letns.org) and we can pass your interest along to the Executive Committee.
- The Board also approved and updated the Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice. The Admissions Notice will be published shortly.
- Finally, the Board approved a half day for Primary Language Curriculum training for staff on 24th November.

We wish everyone in our school community a very happy and enjoyable first term.

Lucan ETNS Board of Management