



LUCAN ETNS

February 2nd 2024



Welcome

The grand 'stretch' in the evenings is a welcome sight and provides us all with the opportunity to emerge from our various levels of hibernation. It has been a very special week in Lucan ETNS as we have all focused on our wellbeing. We have prioritised our mental health and followed our passions. Through meditation, demonstrating gratitude, making healthy choices and focusing on our ourselves (& absence of homework!) we hope the children, staff and parents have noticed the benefits.

We are lucky to have an incredible Wellbeing Committee who have organised a fantastic week which included hip-hop and zumba, daily activities for each class, trips to the park/playground all of which culminated with our 'Buddy Day', devised by our Student Council in aid of Pieta House and as part of our Amber Flag campaign. We hope that many of the practices that we embraced this week will continue to be a part of our daily lives and that we can be a proud ambassador for positive mental health.

Our Value for the month ahead is 'Showing Love', we can show love in many ways, through a love of learning, through showing kindness to others and by taking care of the world around us. Before we can show love we must learn to love ourselves, we must recognise our strengths and take pride in our accomplishments. We hope to see love spread across the school this February!



Dates for your Diary

- St Brigid's Day/school closed - 5th February
- 5th Class Irish Aid Workshop: 7th & 8th February
- Assemblies - Helen SI & Karen 4th Class
12th February @9:15 & 10:45
- Outreach Admissions Close - 19th February
- Mid-term break - 15th & 16th February
- School re-opens - 19th February
- Gymnastics Sports in School starts -
27th February
- School Closure/Referendum - 8th March

Staffing Challenges

As previously communicated we are continuing to experience serious difficulty in filling our allocated teaching posts. The staff we do have in place have been incredible at minimising this deficit and I would like to thank them sincerely for everything they have done and continue to do in the best interests of our children.

Vacant Plot - Mt. Bellew Way

The Board of Management would like to develop a plan to try and secure the vacant plot of land beside the school for the benefit of children and the community in advance of the local elections in June. The land could serve multiple purposes; it could provide much needed special class places for children in Lucan, improve road safety by including a set down area, reducing impact on local residents, it could also support the school in sharing it's facilities with the local community. The Board would welcome any support in developing, communicating and campaigning for this development. Progress updates will be communicated.

First Class

This week First Class have been learning all about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores!

We made carnivore and herbivore teeth while we are also learning all about Badgers who are omnivores! We will be creating a Badger fact-file next week!



Sharon's Second Class

What a wonderful Wellbeing Week we had here in 2nd Class! Kevin's 6th Class and Sharon's 2nd Class who are reading buddies met up and went to Willsbrook Park on Wednesday. We played soccer and went to the playground.

Kevin's 6th and Sharon's 2nd decided to buddy up again on Tuesday and made a "Mission Possible Wellbeing Wall!" in the hall where we worked together as buddies to draw what we love to do to make us feel happy. We also wrote about all the things we like about ourselves. Wellbeing is a wall that we build to create our own happiness.

On Thursday, Sharon and Sarah's 2nd Class are going swimming to Tallaght and on Friday, both classes will join together to have a quiz about St Brigid.

Spring has Sprung and we are growing in mind and body!



Sarah's Second Class

In Sarah's Second Class the children have been learning all about Martin Luther King Jr. and were inspired to create beautiful artwork. The children have had lots of opportunities to be active over the last fortnight taking part in Cricket and Zumba classes.



Wellbeing Committee

Amber hands- every child created their amber hands showing positive self affirmations. All of the hands are placed together in our classes and this reminds us of how we are connected to our friends and how we can talk to our friends when we are going through a tough time.

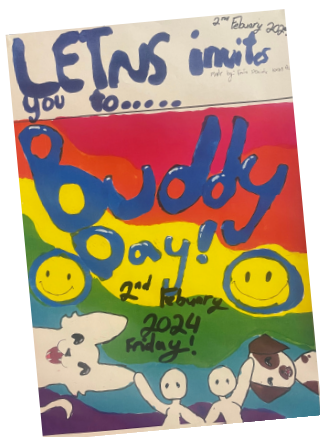
Our student council created posters to promote our Buddy day fundraiser this Friday!! You can still donate on the Pieta House go fund me link on our instagram account or by clicking on the link on the left of the page. Many thanks for your donations so far.

We had a special assembly on Monday to begin our Wellbeing week. We heard about the important work that Pieta House do, and the ways that we are working towards getting our Amber Flag by promoting positive mental health.

Fifth class showed us their calm down mindful jars.



Below - 1st - 6th classes enjoyed Zumba for wellbeing week! Infants did hip hop classes with Emily and had great fun.



BOM Agreed Report



The Board of Management met in school on Tuesday the 23rd January 2024. Below is their Agreed Report:

- The Board discussed concerns from local residents and parents regarding parking and safety on the road outside the school. South Dublin County Council have responded to concerns raised and communicated that the appropriate road markings are in place outside the school and violations should be referred to An Garda Síochána for enforcement. The Board agreed that we must raise awareness of road safety and encourage the children to have a role in highlighting the issue.
- The Board discussed admissions opening on the 29th January 2024 for Outreach classes.
- The Board have accepted the advice from the school accountant and will prioritise securing and improving the school's finances to ensure the ongoing solvency of the school following consecutive deficits (2022 - €99,805 / 2023 - €90,592).
- The Board thanks the staff team for their extraordinary effort this school year. The Board is very aware of the challenges they are facing and we very much appreciate the work they are doing for the students in the school.
- The Board acknowledges the work undertaken in developing the Whole School Learn Together Plan, the Board would like to thank all staff for their contribution and particularly thank Amanda for leading the process.
- The Board would like to thank Derek Mannion for his excellent service to the Executive as Chairperson and would also like to wish Claire Hayes the very best as she assumes the role.
- The Board ratified the Protected Disclosure Policy which is available to view on the school website.
- The Board reviewed the Policy Review Calendar and have identified outstanding policies.
- The Board is pleased to learn that Therese Hesse along with the Student Council will research barriers to attendance and identify strategies for promoting greater levels of attendance across the school.
- The Board would like to thank Muireann for supporting staff as they transition over to Microsoft Teams.
- The Board would also like to thank the Wellbeing Committee for conducting a survey among all stakeholders and for developing an action plan to promote wellbeing across the school community, as well as, all their efforts in organising activities to take place across Wellbeing Week.
- The Board is looking forward welcoming an Irish Music Workshop during Seachtain na Gaeilge, as well as, Food Dudes returning to promote healthy eating.
- The Board would like to thank Catriona for facilitating staff training with Fiona Forman, author of Weaving Wellbeing, as well as, securing sustained support from the PDST in the area of Wellbeing.
- The Board is looking forward to Valerie returning to support Sixth Class Art projects in advance of their transition to Secondary.
- The Board is also looking forward to the PTA fundraising event later in the year and would like to thank all involved in organising the event.
- Ian Scott was confirmed as the Ethos Representative, while Kirk Delaney will assume the oversight of School/Hall Rental on the Board.
- The Board would like to develop a plan/vision related to the vacant plot of land adjacent to the school. The opportunity of opening additional classes for children with additional needs alongside the potential for developing part of the site for a safe set down and drop off zone for the school is something we would like to work towards. The establishment of a working group may help the creation, delivery and promotion of such a proposal.
- The Board agreed dates for futures meetings: 13th February 2024, 20th March 2024, 24th April 2024 & 22nd May 2024.
- Finally, the Board would like to offer its sincere condolences to the Meehan/Donagan families following their recent loss.