



# LUCAN ETNS

May 3rd 2024



## Welcome

Bealtaine marks the beginning of the Irish Summer. We have many ancient rituals associated with Bealtaine from relighting fires to symbolise a fresh start, to sunrise vigils on a high place where the Sun is encouraged to come out of its darkness with the help of a bonfire. It's important that we celebrate ancient traditions and stay connected with nature and our past, we may perhaps need to start encouraging the Sun a little sooner!

We have had a wonderful fortnight in Lucan ETNS in which we celebrated Neurodiversity. It's always a heartwarming and insightful time of year when we learn about how we all experience and interpret the world differently. It promotes greater understanding, patience and an appreciation that we are all different which is amazing! We all gathered in the playground this week to blow bubbles to celebrate Neurodiversity!

Last Friday our PTA organised an incredible Quiz Night which was wonderfully attended and great fun. I would like to thank all of those who attended or donated in any way. It was a really special night which raised an amazing €3,000 for our Sensory Corridors and a wonderful example of the great things our community can achieve. I would like to especially thank Saoirse & Michael from the PTA who created a wonderful occasion and drove it forward. Thank you.

Our Value for this month has been Inclusiveness and as part of this we have spoken about the importance of belonging. We all belong to different groups, whether that be family, friends or sporting/non-sporting organisations. We should all feel like we belong in Lucan ETNS and we should celebrate everyone. This Term our Student Council will be organising a 'fun day' (date tbc) and at the end of this day we will gather together to raise the Pride Flag to celebrate all families in our school and to promote our inclusive equality based ethos. I hope you all have an enjoyable mid-term break and we are looking forward to welcoming you all back on the 13th of May. Take care.



## Dates for your Diary

- Mid-term Break 6th - 10th inclusive
- Rang Fódla 3rd Class Assembly @10:45 - 13th May
- Rang Anú JI Class Assembly @9:15 - 20th May
- Lucan ETNS Art Exhibition - 22nd May
- PMC School Closure - 4th June
- Local & European Elections School Closure - 7th June
- Junior Infants Intake - welcome day -10th June
- Junior Infants Information Session 11th June @19:00
- Sports Week 10th - 14th June/Sports Day 13th June
- Walk in the Park 14th June 2024
- 6th Class Graduation 2024 - 25th June

## School Tours

- 3rd Class 'Alive Outside' - 20th May
- 6th Class Baltinglass - 29th May
- 4th Class Sports Campus - 6th June



## Vacant Plot of Land

Lucan ETNS have expressed an interest, to South Dublin County Council, in the vacant plot of land adjacent to our school. Our proposal is to use this land to increase our capacity for children in our community who have additional or special educational needs.

The land will also allow for set down parking and turning space at drop off and pick up times, a much needed solution to our traffic congestion and safety issues. The Council have acknowledged our approach, but to date we are still awaiting a response. School management will continue to follow up with SDCC.

We would really appreciate everyone's help to highlight and advance our cause! We would encourage everyone to raise this issue with your local candidates who will be calling to your doors, canvassing for your vote in local elections, taking place on June 7th.

Let's make this wonderful opportunity happen for our school and our wider community!

# Curriculum Enrichment

The Staff and Board have been working hard to identify ways in which we can enhance the curriculum and provide a wide range of unique opportunities for children throughout their time in Lucan ETNS. We have drafted a curriculum enrichment document to map activities we are providing across the school from next year to help us identify further areas we could develop and provide across all year levels. The

Board have agreed to support the reintroduction of violin lessons starting in Third Class from September. We have also secured the services of Leinster Rugby who will deliver rugby lessons across all year levels next year at no cost to the school. This document is still in its infancy and our aim is to continue to build and introduce a wider variety of opportunities for our children.

Class	JI	SI	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Term 1	GAA	GAA	GAA	Rugby	Swimming/Violin	Swimming	Rugby	Rugby
Term 2	Gymnastics	Gymnastics	Rugby	Gymnastics	Violin/Rugby	Gymnastics/Rugby		
Term 3	Rugby	Rugby		Swimming				

Cycle Safety/Cricket to be confirmed. School sports teams offer additional opportunities to 4th, 5th & 6th class students.

## Junior Infants Intake 2024-25

We are getting to that time of year when we have to start preparing for the year ahead. This year we will welcome our incoming Junior Infants on the 10th of June. Our new students will visit their class with their parents and meet their class teacher for September. To facilitate this our current Junior Infants will have a half-day and will finish at 11:50 on the 10th of June. A parents information session will also take place at 19:00 on the 11th of June for parents only so they can prepare their child/ren for Junior Infants and meet teachers, Board & Exce members and learn more about our school in advance of their child/ren starting. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## Free School Meals

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete school meals survey and share your thoughts on the programme. We had 200 responses which is great! I just wanted to state that this survey only intended to gauge interest in our school community. Many people requested more information regarding the meals, portion sizes etc., however, we simply don't have that information at this stage. Based on the responses we will be notifying the Department of our interest in the free school meals programme. We will then await a response from the Department on whether we can proceed. If we are approved we would need to identify a number of providers and engage in further consultation with parents to select a provider that meets our needs and reflects our sustainable goals. Thank you again for your feedback and you will be updated on any future developments.

200 Responses

02:20 Average time to complete

1. Would you like our school to express an interest in the hot school meals programme?



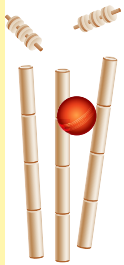


# Online Safety NB\*

Every year the prevalence of electronic devices/smartphones among children appears to increase and children are very often much more accomplished at learning how to use new technology than we are as adults. There are of course benefits to the use of technology in terms of learning and engagement, however, there are significant risks associated. Unfortunately, it is increasingly evident that our children, bearing in mind that we teach very young children, are being exposed to content which is not only inappropriate but harmful. I would like to stress this point and remind everyone that we need to have effective safeguards in place. This requires every parent/guardian to engage and be proactive in safeguarding your child/ren. I would encourage parents/guardians to communicate, support one another and strongly consider establishing a no smartphone voluntary code for your child/ren's class/es. Thank you.

## Cricket Blitz

5th & 6th Class students attended Cricket Blitzes in Marlay Park & Airlie Park over the last fortnight. The weather was very kind on both days and the children had great fun taking part. Many thanks to the teachers involved and well done to all who took part!



## Soccer & Hurling Teams

The boys and girls have been very busy over the last fortnight representing the school in soccer and hurling. The hurlers were very unlucky last week but have made great progress in such a short time, they should be very proud of their efforts. The boys soccer season came to an end last week in a very tight contest with lots of goals scored! The girls soccer team have made winning a habit and confirmed themselves as group winners and are now waiting to see who they will face in the City League semi-finals. Well done to everyone involved for representing the school so well and a massive thank you to our parents for your time and support in taking the children to their matches.



## School Closures

As previously communicated the Department of Education has published a new Primary Maths Curriculum (PMC). This is being rolled out across all Primary Schools in the country this school year. We have been informed that there will be a day of school closure to facilitate staff training in the new PMC on the 4th of June. We have also been informed that the school is required to close in order to facilitate the local and European elections on the 7th of June.



## Wedding Bells

Everyone in Lucan ETNS would like to extend their heartfelt congratulations to Helen & Michael on their recent nuptials. We all wish you every happiness in your joint future!



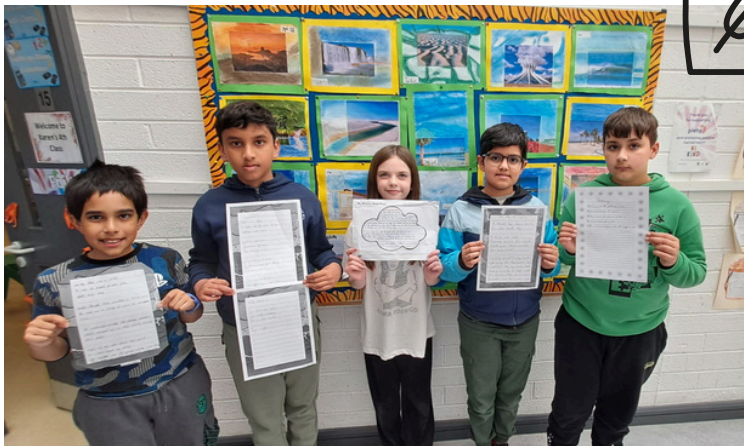


## Rang Brigid - Fourth Class

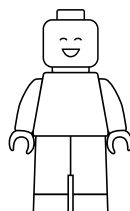
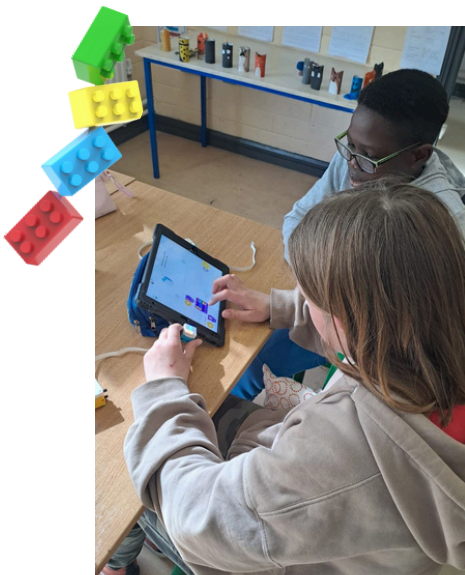
Rang Brigid learned about biodiversity in a workshop from The Rediscovery Centre for South Dublin Eco Week. They learned what biodiversity means and why it is important. They explored food chains and the effect of losing one plant or animal in the food chain. They identified plants and animals native to Ireland and created their own plants and animals using recyclable materials.



Rang Brigid have been exploring poetry. They explored poetic techniques, such as the use of similes and alliteration. They also examined haikus, acrostic poems, shape poems and odes. The children picked one style and created their own poem. They wrote these poems about a type of weather of their choice.



Rang Brigid have also been using Lego Spike kits. these incorporate Lego and coding. So far we have learned how to work the kit, such as the motor, light and motion sensor. We are looking forward to having some transition year students visit us on Friday from Confey College to support our use of the Spike kits. Thanks to John's brother Joel and his robotics group for kindly offering to come and support us.



# BOM Agreed Report



The Board of Management met in the school on Wednesday the 24th April 2024. Below is there Agreed Report:

- The Board learned of the school-based Summer Provision programme and discussed the challenges in securing staff to run the programme. The Board will continue to try and secure staff to facilitate the programme and will notify parents/guardians and the Dept of any developments.
- The Board discussed proposed motions ahead of the Educate Together AGM and voted on the school's position to each motion, both the Board and the Exec will be sending delegates to vote at the AGM.
- The Board was informed that the school is required to close on the 7th of June 2024 to facilitate the local and European elections.
- The Board discussed the 'School Meals' scheme which has expanded in recent years. The Board would like to gauge the level of interest among the parent body in such a scheme operating in our school. The Board agreed that a survey would be issued to all parents in coming weeks.
- The Board were provided with a summary of Senior Infants - Sixth Class admissions and offers for 2024-25.
- The Board discussed levels of attendance and noted that after three consecutive months of improving attendance, April has seen a decline and is now below the previous year. The Board discussed possible causes for this and our looking forward to hearing about student council recommendations before the next academic year.
- The Board were pleased to learn that the whole school Music Plan has been updated and would like to thank the working group for all their efforts.
- The Board were also pleased to approve the re-introduction of violin lessons for Third Class students next year, starting at the end of September and running for 24 weeks.
- The Board also discussed curriculum enrichment and how we can provide a balance of opportunities across the school. A curriculum enrichment overview has been drafted which outlines the additional activities across the school.
- The Board were informed that the school is now without a designated NEPS psychologist for the remainder of the year. The school has been sanctioned SCPA assessments, however, there is a severe lack of available psychologists. NEPS have been contacted regarding this matter and for additional support.
- The Board learned that Sherpa Kids will be operating a camp over the mid-term break in the school.
- The Board were pleased to learn that the school now has a Sum-Up device in the office which will hopefully make discretionary payments easier to facilitate.
- The Board discussed increasing the use of Aladdin in terms of attendance and making payments.
- The Board also discussed Purchase Lists for 2024-25 and finalised what will be included. Purchase Lists will be shared before the end of the current school year.
- The Board would like to extend their congratulations to Helen & Michael on their recent wedding.
- The Board would also like to commend all the children who have represented the school so well in soccer, hurling and cricket in recent weeks. The Board would also like to thank all the parents for facilitating lifts to and from venues, without your support it would simply not be possible to participate. Thank you sincerely.
- The Board would like to clarify a point from the Agreed Report in January which was published in the School Newsletter on the 2nd February 2024. The Board stated that the school had experienced consecutive deficits. It is important to note that a significant proportion of these deficits included depreciation (58%) after significant once off investments were made across the school in recent years. It is also important to note the distinction between an operating deficit and debt of which the school does not have. The Board are now in a phase of rebuilding our finances for the future.
- The Board will meet again on the 5th June 2024.