



# Lucan Educate Together Newsletter September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of our second week back at school already and it is really great that the school term has started so well and everyone is safe and well. Our children have made a dream start and have returned to the school with the same enthusiasm as they left and have embraced the various changes and procedures with such positivity. We are so proud of their efforts. A huge thanks to our staff who are working so hard to settle the children back in and to support and encourage them on a daily basis. Thank you to all Parents /Guardians for your support and co-operation. You have helped to make it a calm and enjoyable start for the children by your co-operation with the various measures and procedures in place in the morning and afternoon. Thank you all.

This week we have had a high level of absenteeism throughout the school, due to seasonal colds and coughs. It is reassuring to see Parents following the HSE advice in these instances and keeping their child out of school until the symptoms have cleared. It will take some time to build up children's stamina and immunity again, given that they have been out of the school environment for such a long time.

For the first term (to Halloween) the Department of Education have advised that all Primary schools should focus on SPHE/well-being, Mathematics, Language (English/Gaeilge) and P.E. We will be following this advice.

There will be a strong focus on helping children to re-engage and feel safe to be back at school. Time will be spent on reviewing / filling gaps in learning and building confidence through re-reinforcement before introducing new concepts and learning. The measures in place to support social distancing will have implications on the range of activities we can provide for the children e.g. swimming, trips, music instruction etc. Access to communal areas of the school will also be restricted (hall, library, computer room etc.) for the moment.

We are looking at a plan for assignment of homework to children. Teachers are working this out at each class level, appropriate to children's age and stage of learning. A blended approach is being considered with an emphasis on oral work, reading and some online work. More details to follow on this. Homework will start during week commencing September 21st.

We are asking **all Parents/Guardians** entering the school grounds to **wear a face covering**. This is particularly important where we have so many adults/children in the school environment . Please do not approach teachers at classroom doors . Any issues / concerns can be communicated in your child's class diary or by email / phone call to the office.

Social distancing should also be maintained while waiting for children's arrival / departure times. Thank you for your co-operation with this. More children are now walking independently in and out from the school gates, which is also helping. Well done to all the boys and girls cycling, walking and scooting to school. Our new bike racks / shelters will be finished later this month which we hope will encourage even more children to take their bike or scooter out for an active start to the day .

Bring a toy on Friday .

Golden Time is an enjoyable time for our classes on Friday, where children are rewarded for their efforts during the week . To date, children have been allowed to bring a favourite toy to share on yard or during this period. Given the restrictions, we have had to look at how this is done in classes . We are allowing children to continue to bring in their favourite toy . This will not be allowed out on yard but will be shared with other children in their pod. Toys should be cleaned and sanitized before leaving home. Only toys that can be wiped are suitable for sharing .....no furry toys / playing cards please

Welcome to Noirin SNA who has joined the staff this week and is working in our Outreach classes. We also welcome back Andrea whom we forgot to mention last week.

We wish you all have a relaxing week-end ahead .

Kind regards,

Mary