

*Lusk N.S.*

Chapel Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin  
Phone/Fax: 8437738  
Email: [office@luskns.ie](mailto:office@luskns.ie)  
[www.luskns.ie](http://www.luskns.ie)

---

---

Parish of St. Maccullin



*S.N. Lusca*

Bóthar an tSéipeil, Lusca, BÁC  
Guthan/Facs: 8437738  
Email: [office@luskns.ie](mailto:office@luskns.ie)  
[www.luskns.ie](http://www.luskns.ie)

---

---

## School Report for 2016/2017 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In the midst of a very busy school year with a new school build at the forefront of everyone's mind, the staff, students and overall school community have worked very hard to ensure that every child has a positive school experience. At a basic level a school report reflects what is most important about our school, our vision. While we will talk about academic and extra-curricular achievements below really the key question is, are our children safe, happy, respected, treated kindly and learning to the best of their ability. That is what we are aiming towards. We can't answer for individual children, only parents can do that, but we will touch on these areas in the report below.

A huge amount of planning and organisation took place to ensure the execution of a wide variety of school activities in the 2016 to 2017 school year. Below is a reminder of some of the vast array of school undertakings and events that took place both as part of school curriculum and indeed on an extra-curricular basis. A huge thanks is warranted to all school staff who continually strive to provide the children with such a well-rounded school experience.

Key achievements to note are as follows:

- Extremely positive behaviour in school
- Vibrant programmes for pupil wellbeing such as Friends, Incredible Years and Rainbows
- Very high standardised score results in literacy and numeracy as shown in Appendix 1 of this report.
- Attainment of four Green Flags in the following areas – Recycling, Water Conservation, Energy Conservation, Travel.
- STEM award for excellence in Maths, Science and Technology.
- Active Flag Award for healthy school activities.
- Healthy Schools Initiative Award
- INTEL Science Award

Behaviour - Given that we had 849 pupils one key indicator as to whether we are achieving our vision is behaviour within the school. Our school uses the Incredible Years programme as the backbone of our Code of Behaviour. As much as possible we identify positive behaviour and we praise it. Not one child was sent to the Principals office for misbehaviour last year. That is a serious achievement in a school our size.

Anti-Bullying – We take bullying seriously in our school. We use the anti-bullying campaign strategies as the cornerstone of the policy. This allows us to deal with possible bullying as early as possible and nip it in the bud. In a school our size there will always be some complaints re possible bullying. This year there were a very small number of complaints (less than five) and these were dealt with sensitively and appropriately and in each case parents confirmed that the matter was resolved.

The development of positive mental health and well-being is always of paramount importance. As a school, the staff have been striving to develop resilience and coping skills in children in order to counter the stresses that they will inevitably encounter both in and outside of the school environment. The FRIENDS programme, which is recommended by the World Health Organisation and backed up by scientific research, aims to teach such skills. It was rolled out to all children in 5<sup>th</sup> class during the 2016 to 2017 school year. Skills learnt will stay with these children for life. In addition, all children participated in a Wellness Week during the school year, which used the SPHE programme to focus on the development of coping skills and strategies. As part of this week, all classes participated in a session of Mindfulness.

Academic Attainment: Our school works very hard to provide the best learning outcomes for our children. Every year our children participate in standardised tests each spring. These scores are submitted to the Department of Education. We have attached graphs in appendix 1 of this report showing the attainment of our pupils. They show that in both Maths and Literacy our scores are well above the national average with more children attaining above average and less children scoring below average than pupils across the country.

Maths and Science were at the forefront of the students' educational experience during the months of October and November, which saw the celebration of both a Maths Week and a Science month. During Maths week, the children were visited by Transition Year students from Lusk Community College who worked with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils on fun maths problems. International Science week was expanded to a month long activity with events taking place throughout the month of November. Junior Infants to 1<sup>st</sup> class learnt about birds of prey, reptiles and an assortment of other animals as a result of a visit from 'Animal Magic'. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class participated in a range of science experiments as a result of a visit from staff at MSD in Swords. 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class were visited by the 'Marine Wildlife Workshop' and received science lessons on the natural world. Children from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class also took part in the 'Mini-Scientist Exhibition'.

Literacy: As a school, we always strive to encourage increased reading, not just at an academic level but more importantly, for enjoyment. World book day was celebrated in March, which saw all children receive a book token to be used towards the purchase of enjoyable reading material. The accompanying book fair took place in the school hall, and also provided opportunity for children to purchase books that could be chosen from a wide array of reading material. The buddy reading project also took place during the school year. This is a programme in which older children are paired with young children to enjoy reading together. The book exchange programme also took place in the junior classes, where children had opportunity to choose a book to read at home before returning it and swapping it for a different book.

Our school community is one which benefits from the inclusion of children from a vast array of nationalities and cultures. Our yearly Multi-Cultural Assembly took place in November, which was a wonderful celebration and indeed provided a powerful reminder to us all of the many cultures that come together to learn in our school. This event was complemented by World Food day in January, where children brought in dishes from all over the world.

The month of December saw all of the children from Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class take part in the annual Christmas show. These shows raised 2,142 euro for the St Vincent de Paul, who used the funds to assist 40 families within the school community. The traditional Christmas mass was held in the school hall for all children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class. It was also attended by many of the parents. The school choir complemented the ceremony beautifully with their well-rehearsed singing. The choir also served in providing beautiful music during the sacramental events of Confirmation and Communion.

In an era of increased internet usage, the importance of staying safe online is of paramount importance. In response to this, Internet Safety day took place in February as part of the Stay Safe month. During this day, the children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class were visited by an external facilitator from Zeeko (see the report under Parents Tab). In addition, a 'Parents Internet Safety Seminar' was held, which covered topics such as cyberbullying, online gambling, social media, use of Youtube and the digital footprint.

The Parents Association were very busy during the 2016 to 2017 school year. As well as launching an E-Zine in order to keep parents up to date on school activities, they organised a 'Tesco tokens fund raiser' over Christmas which raised 333 euro for the replenishment of sports equipment within the school.

The school's Debate Team were busy in both the Fingal Debating Competition and the Concern debates. The team were victorious in the Fingal debating final and performed very well in the final of the Concern debate.

A vast array of activities were organised for the annual celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge in March 2017. Children were given the opportunity to engage

in table quizzes, Céilí móra, bingo and fun games. All children were also encouraged to speak as much Irish as possible during the week. The children enjoyed the events of Seachtain na Gaeilge immensely.

The Greenschool's Committee, as usual, were busy throughout the school year ensuring the standards of a 'Green School' were adhered to and maintaining the four Green Flags awarded to us over the years. They continually ensured the collection of green bins from all the classrooms, did regular battery collections and monitored the numbers of children walking to school every week. They also organised a 'Clothes Recycling' day where children and parents were encouraged to bring old clothes, shoes, bed linen, towels etc to the school for the purpose of recycling.

The Voluntary Contribution raise approximately 15,000 euro at the beginning of the school year. A variety of activities were funded as a result of this contribution including, drumming workshops, creative writing workshops and dance lessons. It is with great appreciation that we thank all parents in supporting the contribution because of the valuable additions that it brings to the school life of the children.

Even with the loss of space in the immediate school environment due to the new school build, it is of note that many of our sports teams still managed to train, practise and perform well in the various school leagues. The boys and girls' senior basketball teams reached their league finals at the National Stadium. Also in action during the school year were the Senior and Junior Boy's football team, a Senior girl's team and a Boys and Girls Soccer team.

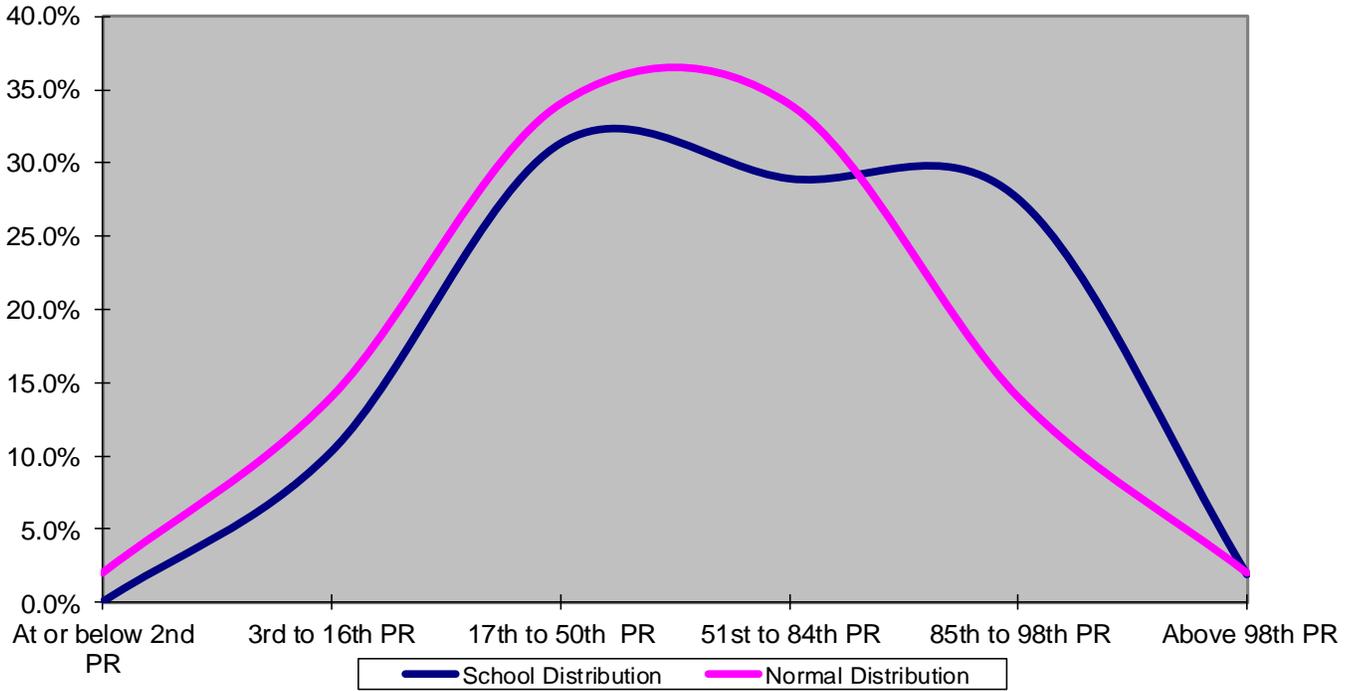
The end of the school year was a busy one, which culminated in the senior summer concerts and 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation. Children were given opportunity to demonstrate their singing, dancing and acting capabilities on front of a large audience during the concerts and, in so doing, managed to raise 3,300 euro for the Irish Cancer Society. Money raised as a result of the annual cake sale in June was also put towards this donation.

So as can be seen, the 2016 to 2017 school year was a very busy one for both the students and staff alike. The dedication of all staff members and the commitment of the children and their parents to the various initiatives ensured that a huge variety of activities were open to the students of Lusk NS. Given that we are moving into our new schools in the 2017/2018 school year we are sure to have a very eventful year but we will continue to do our best to ensure all the children have as positive and happy a year as possible while providing a well rounded education.

**Appendix 1:**

Literacy:

**Test Results Compared with Normal Distribution**



Numeracy:

**Test Results Compared with Normal Distribution**

