



21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our March newsletter. I hope everyone had a lovely St. Patrick's weekend and is really looking forward to the Easter break.

**New School** – Our new school is almost ready. The junior yard will be surfaced this week after which the two school buildings will be complete. Unfortunately there is one major outstanding issue which is the connection to the electricity grid by ESB networks. We have been waiting for the past two months for this work and are doing our best not to get frustrated with the delay. Once the buildings are connected it will take about five weeks to complete all systems testing after which we can move in. Our provisional date is now the 1<sup>st</sup> of May but everything depends on the ESB and so we will let you know as soon as we have any update.

**World Book Day and Book Fair** – This month we celebrated 'World Book Day'. All the children were given a book token to use in local book shops to encourage them to choose enjoyable reading material. The children also dressed up as their favourite character from literature at assembly on Friday the 9th of March. The Book Fair took place the same week and raised 4,000 euro which we have put towards books for the new libraries in our new campus.

**School Closures** – This year has been incredibly disruptive with the combination of Storm Ophelia, our blown boiler and 'the Beast from the East' wreaking havoc on our school calendar. Our Board met last night and has agreed on several steps that we are taking to reduce the impact on tuition time and ensure the curriculum is completed by the end of the school year. The steps are as follows:

1. Cancel two half days closures we were due to take for Child Protection training and teachers will do this training after school.
2. Reduce Sports Day to a half day for each class in the month of June.
3. Re-organise our timetables so we focus on Maths, English and Irish during what would normally be discretionary time each week ie 2 hours per week.
4. Reduce by half the number of school assemblies we do each Friday.

By taking these steps the Board feels that missed tuition time will be made up and so it will not be necessary to bring the children in for extra classes at Easter or during the May week.

**Stay Safe Month** – February was 'Stay Safe Month' when we do a series of lessons in each children dealing with everything from personal safety, to privacy of body parts to Internet Safety. One issue that arose is the law regarding physical punishment of a child by a parent. Such punishment is now illegal in Ireland. If we receive such a report we must report it to TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency, who are then in contact with parents about the matter.

Principal: Paul Comiskey, B.Ed., Dip. Ed. Man., M.St.(Ed)  
Deputy Principal: Liz Scott, B.Ed., M.Phil., PGDEL

**Enrolment** – In February we offered 104 places to new Junior Infants for the coming year. Once we have processed the forms we will then make a second round of offers to children on our waiting list, as per the criteria in our Enrolment Policy (available to view on the school website [www.luskns.ise](http://www.luskns.ise)). We will then inform all remaining families of their child's place on the waiting list. We understand that this is an anxious time for many families and we ask parents to be patient and allow the process take its course.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge** – Bhí seachtain na gaeilge againn i rith na míosa. Ghlac na páistí páirt i go leor imeachtaí i rith na seachtaine. Bhí tráth na gceist, céilí mór, geatsaíocht agus cluichí bingo againn agus bhainn na páistí an taitneamh as. Ghabhaimid buíochas ar Ms. Bates a d'eagraigh an céiliúradh go léir.

We celebrated 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' this month. The children took part in a whole range of activities during the week including quizzes, giant céilí, fun activities and bingo games and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the events. A huge thanks is due to Ms. Bates for organising the celebrations.

**Debating Team** – Congratulations to our Debating team who, under the guidance of Ms. Fay and Mr. O'Donnell represented us so well in the Fingal Debating Competition. It was a fantastic achievement for all involved as the standard of debating was really high and it was a pleasure to observe our students represent us so well.

**Sport** – The sporting season is in full flow and we have teams representing the school in GAA, soccer, basketball and cross country. Well done to all our teams who are doing really well and a huge thanks to our teachers for giving so much of their time to the teams.

**Green Schools Committee:** Well done to Ms. Morris and the Green Schools Committee for raising 350 euro from a clothes collection recently. The funds will go towards prizes for a Green Schools Art competition this Friday.

**Breakfast Club** – For the past several years we have run a Breakfast club for many of our children between Halloween and Easter. It makes a huge difference to some children in helping them get the best start to the day. We couldn't run it without help from our local St. Vincent De Paul and huge commitment from our teachers, Parents Association and in particular our SNA's.

**Confirmation** - Fr. Eoin has invited all candidates for Confirmation to two special events next Monday and Wednesday in the parish church. I would really encourage all candidates who wish to fully participate in their sacramental preparation to attend.

**Dates for the diary:** Easter holidays – Closed Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 12.30 pm – Open Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April  
Confirmation – Thurs 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Regards,

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Paul Comiskey, Principal

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