Luask J.N.S. S.N.S Lusca

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Bóthar an tSéipeil, Lusca, BÁC

Guthan: 8709242

Dear Parents/Guardians, 30/8/2019

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back from the summer break. We hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and are ready for the exciting year ahead.

We would also like to give a special welcome to our new Junior Infants who started with us on Thursday. It was a joy to see so many new smiling faces in the school and I must say, the four classes were extremely calm considering it was a brand new experience for the children. We wish you all the very best in your formal school career. May your school years be filled with happiness, fun and fond memories. We would also like to welcome all the new children who have joined us this year from other schools. We look forward to getting to know you and to hearing about your experiences before joining us here in Lusk.

Finally, we would like to welcome our new staff members, Ms Judge in 1st Class, Ms O’Donohoe in 1st Class, Mr Daly in 2nd Class and also Ms Morgan, who will be working in a job share arrangement with Ms Lynct on the Special Education Team. We are also very fortunate to have a number of new SNAs starting with us this year. Ms Andrea, who is staying with us having subbed with us last year, Ms Jennifer, who will be joining us from another school on September 9th, Ms Joanne and finally Mr Paul, who will be joining us from another school on September 26th. I’m sure our new staff members will settle in well and be made to feel very welcome by all.

**Start/Finish times**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our opening and closing times. The school gates to the junior yard open each morning at 8:40, after which time, children and parents can access the school yard. We ask that children line up in their allocated lines when the bell goes at 8:50am. Teachers will take children into their care from their lines at this time. \*\*Please do not access the junior yard via the main reception door in the morning.\*\*

**Please note that the school does not open any earlier than normal on rainy days**. We understand that children may arrive a little late to school in bad weather conditions. In a situation of heavy rain, the school gate and doors on the junior yard will open as normal at 8:40am and children will be invited by a member of school personnel to go to their classrooms ***if necessary***. On these rainy days, access to the school will be via the allocated doors from the junior yard. Please do not access the school via the main reception door on rainy days.

As last year, school finishes at 1:30 for Junior and Senior Infants and 2:30pm for 1st and 2nd Classes. Junior Infants will finish school at 11:45am until Friday 13th September. After this date, their school day will finish at 1:30pm.

If a child is being collected early from school, or arrives late, we ask that parents sign a ‘sign in/out’ sheet for their child, which is present in a folder on a shelf outside Ms Ciara’s office. We kindly ask that children not be collected from the school at break times (10:30am until 10:40am and 12pm until 12:30pm) when the children are on yard, except for cases of emergencies.

**Healthy Eating**

We remind all parents and children that our healthy eating policy remains in place in the Junior School. Children should bring healthy lunches to school every day, including healthy sandwich fillings. Children are allowed to bring one **small** treat on a Friday. Children will also bring any lunch rubbish home in their lunch boxes.

**Allergies:**

Many of the classrooms in our schools have children with a number of allergies. In order to keep all our children safe and healthy, we ask that all parents be mindful of the allergies in their class and respect the food policy in each classroom. This will be communicated by the class teacher and a sign placed on the classroom door.

**Nut allergies:**

There are a number of children in the school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts of any kind can cause an immediate reaction in some children. Nut products include spreads such as nutella and peanut butter. Children can be exposed to nuts simply by holding a door handle that someone else who has previously handled nuts/nut products has held. This puts some children at risk of anaphylactic shock.

As a result, we ask that parents always remain mindful of the lunches that their children have in school. We ask that parents refrain from giving children nuts or nut based products in school, including spreads such as nutella and peanut butter. This is not only important for children in classes where children have a nut allergy but also across the classrooms because there is often movement of children during the day between classrooms. It is our goal in school to keep every child safe and healthy by reducing the risk of harm to every child.

**Books**

Thank you to all parents who paid for their books online via Databiz. I am aware that the system did not work properly for some of you and appreciate your patience in working closely with Ms Ciara in the office to resolve any of the issues that you experienced. Ms Ciara has been liaising with the administrative team at Databiz in order to reduce the likelihood of such problems arising in the future. Thank you to all.

**Drop Off/Set Down Area**

Please note that, for ease of traffic management, the school car park acts as a drop up and set down area only during the morning period and for the 2:30pm pick up. Cars may park in this area for the 1:30pm pick up time only on a ‘first come first serve’ basis.

**Homework**

We kindly ask that parents of children in 1st and 2nd classes sign their children’s homework each evening and to keep an eye on how their children are progressing.

**Absences**

If a child is absent, an explanation for their absence will be required which should be written in the homework journal or on a separate piece of paper. Once the note has been read and signed by the teacher, it will be returned in the child’s schoolbag. In Junior and Senior Infants, a parent may wish to communicate the reason for absence orally or similarly, a note may be placed in the child’s folder in their bag.

**Medical Needs**

If your child has any medical needs that a child’s teacher should be aware of, please contact the relevant person/teacher immediately.

If a child has a medical need that may require the administration of ongoing medication or emergency medication, please contact the school immediately, and ensure that the school has up to date medication on site for your child. Please note that anti biotics will not be administered by school staff.

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| **School Contact Details:**  **Office Phone**: 01 8709242 **Email:** [office@luskjns.ie](mailto:office@luskjns.ie) **Website**: luskns.ie |

We at Lusk Junior National School are looking forward to working closely with you all over the coming year. We would like to extend our best wishes to everyone and look forward to a busy, yet enjoyable year ahead.

Regards,

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Órfhlaith Clarke (Principal)