

# St. Lorcan's B.N.S Term 1, 2021

Palmerstown, Dublin 20. Tel. (01) 6267493. Email: [stlorcans@eircom.net](mailto:stlorcans@eircom.net), Web: [www.stlorcans.com](http://www.stlorcans.com)

**Punctuality:** Please ensure that pupils arrive in school each day on-time. The morning is an extremely important part of the school day. Not only is it the most productive period for learning, but daily plans and in some cases, homework, are distributed first thing. Punctuality is the first step to a successful day.

**Homework:** Homework is so important, as it helps your child to revise and better retain what they have learned in school each day. Tables are paramount to being proficient at Maths and children who are fast at their tables grasp new concepts much quicker. I encourage every parent to monitor and support their child with their homework each day. If your child is experiencing difficulty with homework, please contact the school as soon as possible to arrange to speak with the class teacher. You will find a link on our school website called [helpmykidlearn.ie](http://helpmykidlearn.ie), which has lots of ideas to help you support your child to learn.

**Child Protection:** Here in St. Lorcan's B.N.S. we take our Child Protection responsibilities very seriously. All new staff members are Garda vetted in line with up-to-date Child Safeguarding procedures. The school's Acting Principal, Ms. Greally, is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Safeguarding and Ms. Gorham (the Acting Deputy Principal), is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL P). All concerns in relation to Child Safeguarding must be reported to either the DLP or DDL P.

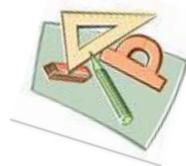
**Internet Safety:** Please remain vigilant when it comes to your son's internet usage at home. The benefits of the world-wide-web are undoubted, but when used incorrectly, it can have very negative consequences. As teachers and school leaders, we see at first-hand how the misuse of social media can negatively affect pupils' lives and overall wellbeing. In school, the pupils are regularly briefed on internet safety and it is imperative that a similar message is communicated at home.

**Mobile Phones and Smart Watches:** A reminder that mobile phones are not permitted in school. If a boy must bring his phone to school for exceptional circumstances e.g. walking home, has to contact parents after school, this may be facilitated. A form must be filled-out by the parent stating the reason why he needs his phone in school. Ms. Gorham visited 5th and 6th Classes to communicate this to the boys. Mobile Phones must remain in the child's school bag and switched off, only to be switched on once off the school premises.

In line with our *ICT Acceptable Use Policy* (available on the school website), smart devices and watches are not permitted at school. Such devices can distract boys from their learning in class.

**Christmas Card Fundraiser:** This year's Christmas school fundraiser, is selling Christmas cards which are designed by the pupils in St. Lorcan's. Orders are currently being taken and will be available for purchase in the school in the coming weeks. Thanks to the Parents' Association for organising this fundraiser.

**Dates for the Diary:** October Mid-term: School closes Friday 22nd October and reopens on Monday 1st November 2021. Christmas Holidays: School closes Wednesday 22nd December and reopens Thursday 6th January 2022.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with St. Lorcan's B.N.S, for a very successful start to the new school year. The pupils have settled well into their school routine and this sets a great foundation for the year ahead.

As you are aware, Mr. Moore has taken a career break this year. We wish him well and look forward to welcoming him back next September. I would like to congratulate Ms. Gorham, as she is now the Acting Deputy Principal.

We have returned to school while still under Covid-19 restrictions, which are directed to us by the Department of Education and HSE. Staggered entrance/exit times still remain in place to support social distancing and reduce the interaction among bubbles (classes). We hope that these restrictions will soon be lifted, but until then, we must continue to adhere to all protocols.

I wish to extend a warm St. Lorcan's welcome to all the new pupils who started in our school in September, including our two new Junior Infant classes, comprising of 54 pupils in total. I would also like to welcome our new staff members, Ms. Sarah Devine (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Ms. Niamh Watts (SET) and Ms. Ciara Burke (6<sup>th</sup> Class).

Congratulations to all the boys who have already made their Communion since returning to school. Best wishes to those who will be making their Communion over the coming weekends.

Despite the summer holidays taking place, July and August were busy months around the school. Mr. Glover, our caretaker was busy maintaining the school infrastructure. His work included the maintenance of the school grounds, as well as cleaning and painting many of the classrooms in advance of the start of the new term. We thank him for his hard work. Also, thank you to Ms. Scully, whose hard work and dedication to our school is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone who is part of the St. Lorcan's B.N.S community, the very best for the weeks and months ahead.

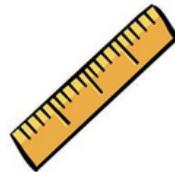
Le gach dea-ghuí,  
Sinéad Greally  
(Acting Principal)

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**GAA Coaching:** We are delighted to announce that GAA coaching is back for another school year. GAA coaching takes place every Friday with our specialist coach, Peter Elliott. Each class will receive a block of coaching lessons in both Gaelic Football and Hurling. Peter will also be conducting an after-school GAA skills session every Wednesday from 2.30-3.30pm, which will be commencing in the coming weeks. This will be for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes only. We are all super excited to get back on the playing field!

**Healthy Eating:** We have a Healthy Eating Policy in operation in St. Lorcan's. Sending your child with fresh and healthy foods to eat during the day will help them to thrive and be successful in school. Healthy lunches also provide children with the energy they need to learn and play at school. Pre-packaged items such as cereal bars, wafers and pastries tend to be high in sugar and other additives. These items should not be given for lunch. On Friday, children may bring in ONE item, which you regard as a treat such as a treat size chocolate bar. Please see the Healthy Eating Policy on the school website for more information.

**Parking:** Traffic and dropping off of children in the mornings continues to cause hazardous situations. There has been numerous near incidents of children being hit by cars. We, with the P.A are working on finding a solution to this ongoing issue. Please take extra care when driving and parking at peak school times. Driving up to and parking near school gates is causing the greatest problems. We appreciate the difficulties with large volumes of traffic during mornings and afternoons but please consider the residents around the school and refrain from blocking driveways or parking on grass verges. Please show courtesy to other motorists and our Lollipop Lady Dee, who safely guides pedestrians and cyclists. The **School Street Project** is a nationwide initiative by local councils to improve the safety of children travelling to and from schools. In early 2021, South Dublin County Council selected both St. Lorcan's B.N.S & St. Brigid's G.N.S. to become involved in the scheme. With planning now entering the final stages, it is hoped to have new safety and traffic calming measures in place both around the Oval and on Manor Park Road before the end of the year. These include promoting a "park and stride" approach for children coming to and going from school, as well as the closing of the Manor Park Road to vehicular traffic at drop - off and pick - up times. A big thank you to Mr. Fortune for his work on the project during the 2020/2021 school year and to Monica Laffan (P.A), Mr. O'Connell & Ms. Devine for their continued efforts in bringing the project to completion.



**Maths Week:** Maths Week 2021 will take place during the week of the 18th of October. Thank you to the Maths Week Committee, led by Ms. Bracken and Ms. Gorham for planning so many exciting initiatives, which will make Maths Week great fun for all.

**School Garden:** See attached document.

**Parents' Association:** See attached document

**SSE:** We are currently undertaking *School Self Evaluation* to assess where we are as a school, in relation to wellbeing. Ms. Bracken (APII) and Ms. Fogarty (APII) are leading the process, which will underpin a *School Improvement Plan*. Questionnaires are currently being distributed among selected classes and their parents for them to fill out. This feedback will allow us to develop, improve and promote wellbeing among all our students and staff alike.

**Christmas Jumper Fundraiser:** With a contribution of €2, boys can wear their Christmas jumpers to school on Tuesday 21st December. All funds will be used to purchase P.E equipment.

**School Completion Programme:** Our two Fifth Classes have been chosen to work with a School Completion Officer. Stacey Gillespie will visit the classes once a week to teach the boys about Friendship, Resilience Building and Positive Social Behaviour. We hope to be able to extend this programme to other classes throughout the school year.

**Requisites:** Thank you to all parents who have paid the school's requisites. This contribution allows the school to provide a Book Rental Scheme, minimising the cost of books for parents, as well as funding numerous other resources for your child throughout the school year. Payments can be made in full or by installments via the Aladdin App.

**Assembly:** While still operating under Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to have assembly over the intercom. We have made a few changes this year though! Any class who wins class of the month will receive jellies and extra yard time. The *Student of the Month* will not only receive a medal, but they will also win a Golden Homework Pass from the Principal. We will continue to have a *Certificate of Merit* award and a *Cainteoir na Míosa* from each class. Then, there is the Principal's Award, which will be awarded to a student who displays extraordinary behaviour, be it in class or on yard for kind acts or for being extra helpful in some way. They will get to bring home a plaque for a whole month, which they can put on display and show off to family and friends!

**Parent-Teacher Meetings:** This year's Parent-Teacher meetings will be held during the third week of November. We are awaiting guidance from the Department of Education and HSE on whether or not these meetings can be held in person. Further details to follow.