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Reg. Charity No. 20015572

St. Lorcan's B.N.S Newsletter - February 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

How time has flown by since our Christmas break! It is hard to believe that the Easter break is only three weeks away.

Interviews were held in early January to appoint four new Assistant Principals. The successful candidates were Ms. Hodgins, Ms. Fogarty, Ms. Cummins and Mr. Graydon. They will oversee the development of Maths and STEM, SPHE and PE, The Arts, including a school choir, The Green Flag and SESE respectively. As Ms Hendrick is on maternity leave, Ms Hodgins will be stepping up as Assistant Principal I and she will oversee ICT and the development of our school's Digital Learning Strategy. We are very lucky to have such a talented and dedicated staff.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Hendrick and her husband on the birth of their baby son.

Child Safeguarding - Our Child Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and updated by the Board of Management. All staff members are Garda vetted in line with up-to-date Child Safeguarding procedures. The school's Principal, Ms. Greally, is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Safeguarding and Ms. Geraghty (the Deputy Principal), is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP).

Please be advised that all teachers are Mandated Reporters. This means that if a child makes a disclosure, **we must contact** Tusla for advice, which we will always follow. Often, this can lead to a report being made to Tusla. All such incidents are treated with discretion and confidentiality is upheld.

Homework - 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, which has lots of ideas to help you support your child to learn.

Afterschool Clubs:

Homework Club for classes 3rd - 6th; Please contact Ms. Hodgins or Mr Graydon for further details.

Lego Club - 1st & 2nd Classes - Ms. Devine and Ms. Watts

Ms. Dunleavy and Ms. Keenan run an after-school sports club.

All children attending any after-school activities will exit via the Manor Park Gate only.

Football - St. Lorcan's BNS played their first football match of 2024 today. It was a home game against Howth Primary School. St. Lorcan's beat the visiting team 7-1. This is a fantastic start to the season for St. Lorcan's!

GAA Coaching - GAA coaching takes place every Friday with our specialist coach, Peter Elliott.

Chess Tournament: A regional Chess Tournament will be held in St. Lorcan's hall on Thursday 7th March. We have entered several teams. We look forward to welcoming different schools around the district who will be participating.

Sacraments 2024 -

First Reconciliation: Wednesday 6th March

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Mr. Walsh's 2nd Class - Saturday 11th May 2024 @ 10am

Ms. Herbert's 2nd Class - Saturday 18th May 2024 @ 10am

Sacrament of Confirmation

Ms. Devine's 6th Class - 17th May 2024 @ 6:00pm

Mr. Graydon's Class - 23rd May 2024 @6:00pm

Parents Association - Thank you to our wonderful PA who are an incredible support to our school. The PA will be undertaking training with the National Parents' Council on 5th March.

Hell & Back: The PA have organised a fundraiser for the school. It is the Hell & Back challenge - it is not for the faint hearted!! The registration fee is €57. If you wish to take part, the registration fee may be reimbursed from any funds you raise over €100. The closing date for registration is 29th March 2024. A bus will be provided on the day with light refreshments in the Palmerstown House after.

Fencing: Due to constant anti-social behaviour, including destruction of school

property, windows being broken on a regular basis, alarm activations and call out charges, bins being up-turned, dangerous paraphernalia being left on the yard, a digger which was set on fire and intimidation, to name but a few, The Board of Management felt it was a priority, under child protection and health and safety, to secure the school boundary. We are now looking forward to being able to replace the basketball hoops for the boys, develop the sensory garden, resource our ASD class and protect our staff and students.

Requisites - Thank you to all parents who have paid the school's requisites. This is not a voluntary contribution. Requisite payments can be made via the Aladdin app.

Autism Class - The building of the Autism Class/modular unit is complete. I am in the process of procuring furniture and equipment to set-up the class.

We hope to commence work on the sensory garden this spring.

Healthy Eating - A reminder that St Lorcan's BNS is a Healthy Eating School with a small treat allowed on Friday's. Please note we are also a **Nut-Free School** due to allergies.

Punctuality - We remind parents of the importance of their son coming to school on time. A good start to the day supports your child settling into class and being ready for learning. Classes start at 08:50. The school gates open @08:40.

Dates for your Diary

- 6th March - First Reconciliation
- 7th March - Chess Tournament
- 8th March - Referendum
- 18th March - Bank Holiday
- 22nd March - Closing date for enrolments
- 22nd March - Mad Hatters Fundraiser
- 22nd March - Easter Holidays
- 8th April - Reopen after Easter Holidays



