

*Lusk J.N.S.*

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Parish of St. MacCullin



*S.S.S Lusca*

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## Annual Report Lusk JNS 2023/2024

Dear Board Members,

Please find below the end of year school report for the school year 2023/2024.

This document provides an insight into the many achievements and developments of Lusk JNS, St MacCullin's in the school year 2023/2024.

### Curriculum Development

#### 1. Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Well Being

##### School Plan for SPHE

As a working document, the curriculum plans are continually reviewed and updated and continue to be a focus during team planning and staff meetings.

##### School Improvement Plan for Wellbeing: Developing Pupil Resilience and Positive Peer Relations:

The following targets were set for the development of skills that promote resilience and positive relationships during the 2023/2024 school year:

- Children will understand and recognise basic feelings in themselves and others (happy, sad, angry, worried).
- Children will pay attention to what their body is telling them (body cues) about what they are feeling.
- Children will choose responses to their feelings that make them feel good and 'ready to go' i.e. calm (e.g. breathing, sensory trays, calm corner etc).
- Children will recognise that they can choose their actions and be able to say whether they engaged in a 'thumbs up'/'thumbs down' choice
- Children will learn how to say sorry in a meaningful way i.e. (I'm sorry for....; this is wrong because.....; In the future I will .....

Following the implementation of the programme during 2023/2024, it was decided to re-engage with the programme again during 2024/2025 in order for the skills to become embedded in the daily actions, language and routines of daily life in Lusk JNS.

##### Continued Development of Sensory Spaces:

The development of Sensory Spaces is ongoing. The project continues to be funded by the Voluntary Contributions made by parents. As well as the sensory spaces available on the corridors, each classroom continues to develop its calm corner and an area with sensory trays.

### **'Inclusion Week and Inclusion Assembly'**

The school's annual 'Inclusion Week' was celebrated on the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> April. Inclusive education means all students learning side by side in the same classroom. The theme for the week this year was "Cogs of Connection" and during this time, the children were taught about how each person's brain is unique and works in an individual way. Lessons that focused on encouraging understanding and tolerance of others and their perspectives were at the heart of the week's activities. Celebrations during the week also included the creation of a whole school artistic presentation of the brain using wooden cogs. They also included signing some beautiful songs, with some using LÁMH signs. The school supported the charity 'Finding Charlie's Voice' during Inclusion Week and communication boards for the corridors and school yard were purchased.

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

"Shout out and be Kind" week took place the week of 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November. The children have been focusing on how to be kind and how to show acts of kindness during the school day. They are also being encouraged to report happy news stories to their teachers, which show how they, or other pupils, have shown kindness. This falls in line with the Department's new action plan, Cineáltas, which is a nation-wide initiative to prevent and address bullying across all schools. Happy news stories were plentiful this week and so, asking for 'happy news' or about things that made your child feel good at school, could be a nice conversation piece in the evenings.

### **Student Council**

Lusk JNS values the voice of its pupils in contributing to the development of school life. During the year 2023/2024, Lusk JNS formed a new student council which comprised of 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils. The council was extremely beneficial in that the children gave invaluable insights into the thoughts and the feelings of the pupil population in the school.

### **Gardening Project**

The Heritage in Schools Programme continued to support the development of the Woodland trail during the school year 2023/2024. The pupils in both Lusk JNS and Lusk SNS continue to enjoy learning about the native plants and animals that are in their immediate environment.

## **2. SESE**

## **3. Language 1: English**

- A review of the literacy plan and activities took place during 2023/2024
- Teachers prioritized the areas of comprehension and reading fluency for development

### **World Book Day**

- World Book Day took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Each stream focused on an author and did a range of activities based on the author's work.

### **Reading Buddies**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils had the opportunity to engage in buddy reading with the Transition Year pupils from Lusk Community college during the first term of 2023/2024. This was a most enjoyable activity and benefited both the older and younger pupils alike.

### **Literacy Standardised Testing**

- Standardised testing in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes took place in May 2023.

### **Results of Testing: May 2023**

- **New Drumcondra Reading Tests**

#### **2nd Class**

≤50<sup>th</sup> percentile = 46.5% of children

>50<sup>th</sup> percentile = 53.6% of children

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Class**

≤50<sup>th</sup> percentile = 56.6%

>50<sup>th</sup> percentile = 43.4%

There will continue to push literacy initiatives in Lusk JNS. The School Improvement Plan will focus on the development of Comprehension skills this school year.

### **New Non Reading Intelligence Test (NNRIT) Testing 2023 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils**

- NNRIT testing took place in November 2023. Testing is used as a screening tool to highlight children who may be presenting with a specific difficulty with literacy and/or numeracy.

### **MIST Testing for Senior Infants**

- Middle Screening Infant Test was used with Senior Infants in May 2024 to highlight children who may require additional support in literacy.

### **Fine Motor Skills/Handwriting**

Handwriting was the focus of our **School Improvement Plan** in the previous SSE cycle. The focus of fine motor skills development continues to be a focus during the first term in Junior Infants in order to develop shoulder, hand and finger strength. Teachers, as a result, continue to report a better degree of 'readiness' in the children and less problems in handwriting skills developing.

## **4. Language 2: Gaeilge**

### **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)**

Lusk JNS was accepted into the Oide Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) pilot project: CLIL comprises part of the Department's 20 year strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and the associated Action Plan 2018-2022, which is committed to exploring partial immersion in Irish in schools and early years settings.

Lusk JNS looks forward to taking part in the Oide 'CLIL' project, which begins during the first term of 2024/2025. Lusk JNS is continuing to embed the practice of teaching certain strands of PE through Irish each year, in addition to the teaching of well known children's stories through Irish.

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

**Seachtain na Gaeilge** took place on the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> March. There was an emphasis on Gaeilge neamhfhoirmiúil and children tried their best to speak as much Irish as possible during the week and their efforts were noted by teachers. Activities during the week included Biongó, damhsa, gníomhaíochtaí as gaeilge and so much more. We finished the week with a 'lá lán glas' where children could come to school wearing anything green.

## **5. STEM (Science, technology, Engineering and Maths)**

### **Maths**

#### **New Maths Curriculum:**

- Inservice Day for New Maths curriculum took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May
- The Maths programme and resources were reviewed and changes made for the new school year 2024/2025 in line with the new curriculum
- A significant investment was made in the purchasing of new mathematical resources.
- Standardised testing in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes took place in May 2024

#### **Results of Testing:**

- **Sigma T testing in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class**  
≤50<sup>th</sup> percentile: 38.4% of children in 2<sup>nd</sup> class  
>50<sup>th</sup> percentile: 61.6% of children in 2<sup>nd</sup> class
- **Sigma T testing in 1<sup>st</sup> Class**  
≤50<sup>th</sup> percentile: 49.5% of children  
>50<sup>th</sup> percentile: 50.5% of children

## **6. Special Education Teaching**

### **Special Education Team**

During the school year 2023/2024, the Special Education Team focused on in-class support in order to maximize access to the greatest number of children requiring School Support. In-class support included 'Literacy Power Hour' in Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> Class. It also included station teaching for Maths in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class.

SET support also included small group School Support to some aiding the development of literacy and numeracy skills as well as social, emotional and behavioural development, language skills development and motor skills development.

#### **Home Based Summer Provision**

- Approval was granted for 23 pupils (present pupils and new incoming Junior Infant pupils) to avail of Home Based July Provision

#### **Transition to Senior School**

- Visits were arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class to visit the Senior School and see their classrooms for 3<sup>rd</sup> Class
- SET teachers from both schools engaged in information sharing meetings
- SNA visits were arranged for SNAs from the Senior School to visit Junior School
- Copies of Student Support files from Junior School were shared with Senior School

### **7. Physical Education**

#### **Sport's Day**

The school's sport's days took place in June. Children took part in a range of sporting activities. Focus was on participation and enjoyment rather than winning.

#### **Child Protection**

The school's Child Protection Policy was reviewed at the beginning of the school year and its Safety Statement and Risk Assessment document reviewed and updated on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The school's Child Protection Safety Statement and Risk Assessment documents are on display in our school foyer and in every classroom in the school.

Four mandated reports were made to Tusla during the school year. Oversight for each Child Protection concern took place at the Board meetings of Lusk JNS during the school year.

#### **Anti-Bullying**

The annual review of the anti-bullying policy and its implementation was reviewed during the Board of Management meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. These guidelines are strictly adhered to in the event of an incident of bullying that is reported. Our anti-bullying strategies focus on the prevention of bullying by adopting school wide practices that promote a caring and nurturing environment. During the 2023/2024 school year, there was two formal bullying

complaints that were dealt with sensitively, and, as per the anti-bullying policy. The cases were monitored closely and interventions put in place which led to a resolution within a twenty day period.

Our annual anti bullying campaign took place on the week of 13<sup>th</sup> November. Its theme was “reach out and be kind” and focused on how children can be kind in school.

#### **Policies Reviewed during School Year 2023/2024:**

- Anti-Bullying Policy (Along with Anti-Bullying Checklist)
- Child Protection: Safety Statement and Risk Assessment (along with Child Protection Checklist)
- Assessment and Report Writing Policy
- Special Education Teaching policy
- Parent/Teacher Communication Policy
- Job Share Policy
- Leave of Absence Policy and Lusk JNS Procedures for Known and Unknown Absences
- Smart/Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

#### **Admission’s Notice 2023/2024**

- The Admission’s notice for Lusk JNS was published on the school website in November 2023. Parents/guardians were notified of the availability of 92 places for Junior Infants. The enrolment process began in January 2024 as per the school’s Admissions to School Policy.

#### **Website:**

- Lusk JNS continues to use its website, launched in March 2022 ([www.luskjns.ie](http://www.luskjns.ie)), as a means of sharing information about school life and communicating with the wider school community in regard to school policies and procedures. It also offers parents/guardians an insight into the activities of the children at school via photographs and videos.

#### **Ethos**

##### **Christmas**

- The children took part in Christmas shows at the end of December. Parents and Guardians were invited to visit the school on the day of the performance.
- The children raised money for St Vincent de Paul through donations that were made on the school’s Christmas Jumper Day, as well as collections during the Christmas concerts.

### Sacraments

- The First Holy Communion celebrations which took place on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024. Children worked very hard with their teachers and the Parish Pastoral Council in preparing for these special sacraments during the school year. The 1<sup>st</sup> class choir provided the music for the Communion ceremonies.

### Junior Infant Visit

- An information evening for parents of the incoming Junior Infant pupils for school year 2024/2025, took place on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The Junior Infant teachers spoke about what to expect in Junior Infants in terms of day to day school life and curriculum.
- The new Junior Infant classes of 2024/2025 got a chance to visit the school at the end of June to meet their teachers and see their new classrooms.

### New Board of Management

- The new Board of Management for 2023-2027 was formed during the 2023/2024 school year. The shared Board consists of 12 members namely:
  - The chairperson
  - Two additional Patron Nominees
  - Three parent nominees
  - Three Community Nominees
  - Two Principals
  - One Teacher

*Loren O'Keefe*

*14/10/24*

