

Lusk J.N.S.

Chapel Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin

Phone: 01 8709242

Email: office@luskjns.ie

Charity Number: 20205410

Parish of St. Maccullin



S.N.S Lusca

Bóthar an tSéipeil, Lusca, BÁC

Guthan: 01 8709242

Email: office@luskjns.ie

28/02/2025

Dear parents/guardians,

Enrolment

Our enrolment for Junior Infants for the school year 2025/2026 is currently ongoing. The final date for acceptance forms to be returned to the office is Monday 3rd March. Please contact the office if you have any questions in regard to school enrolment for the 2025/2026 school year.

World Book Day

Lusk JNS will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 7th March. During this day, the joy of reading will be celebrated in school.

All children in school are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on the day. This is not compulsory, however, and children are free to wear their school uniform, as usual, if they so wish.

Prior to World Book Day, children will be looking at the work of specific authors with their class group, and will engage in activities based on the authors' work.

Every child will also be issued with a €1 Book Token. Please visit the website www.worldbookday.com to find out more about World Book Day, ideas for dressing up, and information on how to spend the €1 book token.

It is hugely important that children have access to books outside of school that are of interest to them, as well as having an opportunity to listen to stories being read to them. Reading for pleasure is hugely important for improving language and comprehension skills, and is an enjoyable experience for children.

Lusk JNS Book Fair

The school's annual book fair will take place on the week of 24th March. During this week, children will be given the opportunity to go to the book fair with their class and purchase a book, if they would like to do so. More information in relation to the book fair, as well as a timetable for your child's class, will be made available at a later date.

Scéalai (Storyteller) Niall De Burca

Lusk JNS was delighted to welcome Storyteller, Niall De Burca, to the school on Wednesday 25th February. Niall's unique and entertaining story telling ability had the ability to keep the attention of nearly two hundred children in each of his two sessions. The children were enthralled with the stories and had a most enjoyable experience.

School Self Evaluation (SSE) and School Improvement Plans (SIP)

School Self Evaluation is a process whereby the school is continually trying to progress its pupils' learning in a specific area by building on its strengths. As a school, Lusk JNS is currently focusing on the development of comprehension strategies, at each class level, as a target for school improvement. While Lusk JNS has seen developments in reading accuracy in its pupils, the comprehension and understanding of what is being read, does not always follow. The school's targeted approach will support the development of such skills in children, by focusing on the teaching of discrete areas of comprehension strategies in an age-appropriate manner.

Lusk JNS is also continuing this year with its School Improvement Plan (SIP) which has been developed in order to target pupil wellbeing by improving pupil resilience, and subsequently, peer relations. It is hoped that by helping pupils to develop an understanding of their own and others' feelings, as well as how their feelings impact on the choices they make, they will be enabled to choose activities that help them to feel calm, thereby controlling their ability to make positive choices, even in times of stress. You can read more about our school improvement plan for pupil wellbeing on the school website (www.luskjns.ie) in the 'Parents' tab under 'School Self Evaluation'.

New Maths Curriculum

The New Maths Curriculum, which was introduced during the previous school year, is currently being implemented in Lusk JNS. The school has invested this school year in the development of its maths resources, in order to allow for more hands on and self-guided learning. In order to follow on from last year's training for staff, the school will have another full day's training later in the school year on Thursday 16th May. The school will be closed for children on this day in order to facilitate the training. This closure date has already been included in the school calendar for the year.

Birthday Party Invitations

We would like to remind parents/guardians that, unfortunately, the school cannot facilitate the distribution of birthday invitations at school. This has, in the past, been a cause of upset in pupils.

In addition, the school cannot facilitate the distribution of treats from home on the birthday of a child in class, due to a number of children with allergies in the school. The school aims to ensure the health and safety of all children at all times while at school. Many thanks for your understanding.

Seachtain Na Gaeilge

During the weeks surrounding St Patrick's Day, the children will be celebrating Seachtain Na Gaeilge. Children will engage in fun activities, 'as Gaeilge', during the period including, but not limited to, bingo, games, the annual school quiz and Irish dancing. Children will also be encouraged to speak as much Irish as possible in school. Keep an ear out also for the "cúpla focail" at home!

Attendance

Lusk JNS aims to promote a high level of attendance. Each year, all schools are legally obliged to make two annual returns to the Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) via the School attendance returns. The first of these annual returns was made recently, covering the time period of September 2024 to December 2024. The second annual return will be made at the end of the school year.

Parents/guardians are legally required to communicate the reason for any absence to the school. The reason for absence must also be inputted onto the online roll system. It is imperative that any school absence is explained by the parent/guardian, otherwise the reason for absence will be recorded as

'unexplained' by the class teacher. The reason for your child's absence can be inputted by parents via the Databiz/eolas app. If you have a difficulty in doing this, please contact the teacher directly via email or in person/phone.

Schools are legally required to record all children over the age of 6 years who have missed 20 days or more and share this information with the Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) during the two annual return periods mentioned above. However, please do not be concerned if your child missed more than 20 days for genuine reasons. These cases will not be followed up by TESS. However, if a child is missing a high number of days, and the absences are unexplained and/or, are not for genuine reasons, this is a cause for concern, and the case will formally be referred to TESS.

The teacher also records any late arrivals/early leavers on the online roll system. Of course, there are many genuine reasons as to why a child may be late for school or may have to leave early and these cases are not a cause for concern. Please be aware that the school day starts at 8:50am and we hope that all children should be in their seats as close to this time as possible. Our school gates close at 9am. If you come to school after this time, please sign your child in at the office.

Please be aware that in a case in which the reason for absence has not been submitted, the class teacher will make contact. In addition, if there is a pattern of late arrivals/early collections without genuine reasons given, your child's teacher will follow up with you in regard to the concerns.

After School Pick Up and Grass Area

I would like to kindly ask that at pick up time at the end of the school day, children be monitored if waiting and playing on the junior yard, particularly around the willow dome, flower beds and sensory garden beds. These are an important feature of the school grounds and we like to keep them intact for the benefit of all of the pupils in the school. In addition, we would ask that children not be allowed to climb on the basketball nets or indeed pull at the cushioned protectors that surround the basketball poles, as these are expensive to replace.

Finally, for those of you picking up children at 1:30pm, please be aware that 1st and 2nd class pupils are still participating in classwork and activities. We ask, therefore, that there be a swift exit after your child has been picked up so that the yard is available for use by the older pupils and also, to allow for the gates to be closed until 2:30pm. Many thanks for your cooperation, which facilitates the smooth running of the school day.

Dates for the Diary

Enrolment: Final Day for Acceptance Forms (Junior Infants 2025/2026): Monday 3rd March

Celebration of World Book Day: Friday 7th March (children may choose to dress up- see above)

St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday: Monday 17th March- *School is closed*

Annual Book Fair: Week of 24th March 2025

Friday 11th April: School closes at 12pm before the Easter holidays

Monday 14th April until Friday 25th April Inclusive: School closed for the Easter holidays

Monday 28th April: Children return to school after Easter break.

Kind regards,

Órfhlaith Clarke