

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING: 19th January 2021
(Held via Zoom due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation)

Happy New Year: The Board wishes all staff, students and their families a happy new year and hopes that everyone had a peaceful and happy Christmas and wishes everyone a happy, healthy and safe year to come.

Thank You: The Board is delighted to hear of the wonderful participation of students in their online learning and is very grateful to staff and parents for facilitating this. The Board thanks parents for their ongoing support and cooperation during this time and appreciates the efforts of teachers and all staff to ensure the curriculum continues to be delivered to all students.

Support: The Board acknowledges that this period of school closure can be difficult for families at home and would like to remind parents that support is available from the school. Thank you to Mr Keddy who continues to support many families in ensuring they are able to engage in the online learning process.

Music Generation: The Board thanks Joan and Niall from Music Generation for continuing to provide lessons and activities to our students remotely. Thank you also to Music Generation for providing bodhráns to our 3rd class students so they may continue with their music practice at home.

Carambola: The Board is pleased to hear that Carambola will provide provision boxes of food to students' homes during the school closure and is pleased to hear that so many of our families are availing of this provision.

September 2021: The Board reminds families and the wider community that places are available in our school for the coming school year. Applications and enquiries can be made by contacting office@newtownprimary.ie

Sacraments: It is hoped that Confirmation for our 6th class from last year will go ahead soon and that this year's Communion and Confirmation sacraments will proceed in the coming months also. More details will follow as guidance is received from the diocese around the reopening of churches. The Board was pleased to hear of the excellent participation of our 6th class students in their Service of Light ceremony on Zoom in December and wishes all our students well in their preparations for Confirmation and Communion.

Reopening of School: The Board was disappointed with the handling of the situation with regard to this week's proposed reopening of schools, in particular with the proposed reopening of our Classes for Children with Autism. The Board recognises the distress this caused many families and hopes that the situation is resolved in the near future in a manner which ensures a safe return to school for our children with additional needs and for our staff.

Welcome: The Board welcomes Mr Eoin Keddy to our school as he begins teaching Ms Monahan's 3rd class. We wish Ms Monahan and Ms Healy well as they begin their maternity leave. We also welcome our new student, Noah, to Ms Cheevers' class and hope he and his family will be very happy in our school.

Next Meeting: A Board meeting will be held on Thursday 25th February at 7pm via Zoom