

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL

From the Principal : APRIL 2019:

Dear Parents/Guardians, School Staff, Friends,

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Leader of this School Community for the past twenty five years. Since 1994 the School has grown from a small staff of Seven in St. Brigid's GNS and Nine in St. Joseph's BNS to a School Staff of 47, the local school now being one of the biggest employers in Newtownmountkennedy with many past pupils on Staff as Teachers, SNA Staff, School Secretaries and Bus Escorts.

- **SCHOOL STAFF** : The Success of Newtownmountkennedy Primary School comes from the Dedication and Commitment of ALL OUR SCHOOL STAFF. The sense of Teamwork is evident from the Bus Escorts who bring children with additional needs to school safely every morning to the Caretaker, Cleaning staff, School Secretaries, SNA staff and Teachers. We are fortunate to have a highly qualified and experienced Teaching Staff many of whom are teaching here in Newtownmountkennedy for all their Teaching Career. Teachers and SNA staff complete Curriculum Courses and take on new initiatives all for the welfare of our pupils .
- **PUPILS** : Currently our pupil numbers are 360. Our Pupil Enrolment is made up of local children whose Parents and Grandparents attended school in Newtownmountkennedy as well as many new families who have moved to live here in recent times. All our work in school is to offer every opportunity to All our Pupils to achieve their full academic, social and emotional potential. Congratulations to All Past Pupils who have completed Secondary Education and celebrated great achievements at Third Level, many are now leading the way in national organisations or with careers in the caring sector, construction, education, banking etc. We remember Pupils who unfortunately died when they were young : Emma, Dion, Peter, Andrew and Ian as well as Barra who died two years ago while still a Primary School Pupil with us.
- **BOARDS of MANAGEMENT** : Central to the Operation of a successful school is the Board of Management. All Board members work tirelessly for the wellbeing of Staff and Pupils. Special Thanks to Mr. McDaid who has been Chairperson of the Board since we amalgamated in 2007. Hugh has always encouraged Board Members to approve funding for Resources, Equipment, Upgrade of Premises, School Improvements, Employment of Additional Staff so that High Standards of Teaching and Learning can be developed and sustained. Hugh places the Wellbeing of Staff and Students at the centre of our work as educators. Many Thanks to Fr. Regan, Fr. Hurley and Fr. Daly as Representatives of the Patron, the Archbishop of Dublin.
- **PARENTS** : Right from the beginning I have been most fortunate to work with the full support and cooperation of Parents. The PA in St. Brigid's was just in its infancy in 1994 with three Committee Members. with a key input from the fundraising committee whose members continue to be active in community life in

Newtownmountkennedy. Fundraising still forms a big part of the work of the Parents' Association with help from the local community for the Spring Draw and Hell & Back. PA Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month when Parents are involved in Policy Making, School Organisation etc. Thanks to our Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, NPC Rep as well as the Committee

- **LOCAL COMMUNITY** : Our Parish Community take great pride in our school with invitations to key community events and help with Gardening Projects, Maintenance etc. Thanks to all our friends within the community who have supported and helped us with design and planning for our new school building.
- **CURRICULUM** : Staff have been very willing to take on New Learning Initiatives such as Reading Recovery, Maths Recovery, Lift-Off to Literacy, Digital Schools Framework, Gardening Projects, First Steps, Music Generation, Fun & Run, Cumann na mBunscoil, Soccer, Dance, Drama, Local Heritage, Junior Enterprise Programme, Gaeilge with CCA as well as Sign Language. These programmes have been offered with the generous help from local volunteers who turn up every week to assist with learning, particularly in Infant Classes.
- **HSCL** : Many Thanks to Teachers who have worked in the important area of Home School Community Liaison. The HSCL Teacher works hard to ensure that Parents remain central to their children's education and personal development.
- **CLASSES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM** : We are delighted to have Four Classes for Children with Autism in our school. In times of significant lack of supports and services from External Multidisciplinary Agencies, families depend on Teachers and SNA staff for Individual Programmes, Group Tuition Experiences, Behaviour Management, as well as Primary Curriculum Instruction in small classes where children are encouraged to be active learners in a spirit of respect and social interaction.
- **CATHOLIC ETHOS** : Faith Formation and Religious Beliefs are central to all our Teaching and Learning. We operate in a spirit of Inclusion guided by a sense of Caring, Understanding, Welcoming and Generosity. Thanks to Canon Seán Smith who attends our Weekly Assembly and invites us to celebrate Whole School Monthly Assemblies in St. Joseph's Church.
- **DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION** : Thanks to our School Inspector and Department of Education Staff who help us with queries and efforts to access resources. Congratulations to Staff on a very successful Whole School Evaluation in 2012.
- **FUTURE PATH** : The School welcomes the development of Newtownmountkennedy from a small village to the fastest growing town in Wicklow. Exciting times are ahead for Newtownmountkennedy Primary School as the long awaited School Extension will be built and we can HOPE for a ONE CAMPUS SCHOOL SITE. Pupil Numbers are increasing with new Teacher appointments every year. Best Wishes to Everyone associated with Newtownmountkennedy Primary School for health, happiness and success, building on a strong tradition of Teaching and Learning in a Safe, Happy, Environment where each child is valued and given every opportunity to achieve his/her full potential. Please extend a warm welcome as well as support and kindness to Ms. Lennon as the new School Principal. Go nÉirí go geal leis an scoil, íontach, álainn seo. Míle Buíochas as blianta sásúil, Ghnóthach, taitnemah mar Phríomh Oide.

Le Gach Dea Ghuí

Mrs. C. Dempsey