

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 14th December 2020 @ 8pm

Venue: Zoom due to current government restrictions

Present: Grainne Fennell (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Ciara Perks, Ruth Prenderville, Aoife McDermott, Guy Garrett, Ms Lennon

Apologies: Geraldine Keogh

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from previous meetings approved

Principals Report:

- Currently 344 pupils enrolled in the school
- A total of 37 pupils have accepted places in Junior Infants for Sept 2021 with enquires still coming into the school
- Ms Monahan will commence Maternity Leave in January. Mr Eoin Keddy will take over 3rd class until mid-term break
- Ms Broughan and Ms Eagan will return to the school and will take over from Ms Kiernan who will move to 3rd class for the remainder of the school year
- Well done to all pupils on the lovely artwork on the school windows
- Pupils have contributed to a banner which will display their artwork on the church railings over the coming weeks
- Many thanks to Minister Simon Harris for meeting with 5th & 6th class recently for a question-and-answer session
- Many thanks to Grainne who visited the school as part of Traveller Pride week and provided pupils with pins
- Music Generation, GAA with Jackie and Burns by Our Side all finished this week but will recommence in January
- Dance with Zoe will return in January also. Work is ongoing in relation to how best to mix the classes
- Work continues on setting up an outdoor classroom with benches in place
- Many thanks to 2nd and 3rd class who took part in an initiative to send post cards to some nursing home residents
- Parents are reminded to regularly check the Class Blogs for updates on what the classes are doing at the minute

Christmas Plays – All plays can be viewed via zoom on Tuesday 15th for the Senior school and Wednesday 16th for the Junior school. Plays from the ASD unit will be shown on Thursday 17th. Please see Aladdin for timetable of plays. Plays will be uploaded to Google Classroom by 18th Dec with parents having access via their child's Google Classroom login – details to be issued during the week.

Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Visit – Christmas Jumper / Non Uniform day will take place on Monday 21st Dec.. A voluntary donation of €2 can be made on the day with the proceeds to be given to a local charity to be chosen by the student council. Santa will visit the school on Friday 18th Dec. Each pupil will receive a selection box which will have been in quarantine prior to being sent home.

Parent Teacher Meetings – It is hoped to hold meetings in February. A decision on face-to-face meetings will be taken closer to the time. If parents wish to speak with their child's teacher regarding their progress or any concerns they can contact the teacher to arrange a time to discuss such concerns. An information session can be arranged if parents would like to get an update on current class work and topics being covered in school and for homework. Please contact the school to request that a session be held.

Treasurers Report:

- Current balance €2,161.28 after €15,000 has been provided to assist in the purchase of new Chrome Books
- Christmas cards are due to be delivered to the school Tuesday 15th Dec. The final figure of funds raised through the sale of the cards will be advised at next month's meeting
- It is hoped that the Spring Draw and a Sponsored Walk can take place in the next term

NPC Report:

- A confidential helpline will be open Monday 14th to Thursday 17th for parents who feel their child may not be at the right stage of learning
- Niall De Burca will host a free online storytelling session on 16th Dec – see www.npc.ie for full details

AOB:

- Ms Lennon advised that the majority of pupils have settled in very well since the start of the school year despite having missed so much school time last year.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 11th January at 8pm.

It is expected that meetings will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

If any parent would like to raise any questions ahead of the next meeting or would like to attend the meeting please email parents@newtownprimary.ie