

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 11th January 2020 @ 8pm

Venue: Junior School

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

Apologies: Marilyn Fitzsimons

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from previous meeting approved

Principals Report:

- Remote Learning has commenced and will be in place until end of January in line with current restrictions
- Google Classroom sessions all went well today. Some teething problems, staff working on ways to improve sessions
- The rules for Google Meet sessions have been issued and all students are asked to follow same. Anyone found breaking these rules will be removed from the sessions
- Recording of Google Meet sessions is strictly prohibited in line with GDPR rules
- SET teams are available as are ASD teachers who are in contact with all relevant pupils. It is hoped that ASD classes will recommence as soon as possible
- SNAs are also working with teachers and parents to support pupils as required
- Mr Keddy has coordinated the provision of Carambola parcels which will be delivered in the coming week
- Dr Geraldine Leader will be available to provide support for parents of pupils with ASD
- Many thanks to parents who collected books from the school
- Many thanks to parents/guardians for the support that is being given to pupils at present. It is acknowledged that not all parents are available to attend the daily Google Meet sessions or to complete all work as set out. Work will be picked up by teachers once classes resume but any level of work that pupils can complete remotely is very much appreciated.
- Teachers are available via email and Google Classroom should parents or pupils have any queries or concerns regarding the work that has been set.

- Prefabs update: Allocation of prefabs will be determined once the need for any additional teachers has been agreed. This information will most likely be available in February.

- Parent Teacher Meetings: Meetings have been provisionally planned for February but are likely to take place via a phone call. Ms Lennon to discuss timing and format of the meetings with teachers at the next staff meeting. Further details will be provided once agreed with all teachers.

- Communions and Confirmations: No dates have been discussed for this year's Communion and Confirmation services. Ms Lennon will discuss this matter with Fr John at the next Board of Management meeting. As last year's Confirmations have not yet taken place it is likely that this year's services may be delayed.

- Mr Eoin Keddy has taken over Ms Monahans 3rd class until Easter.
- Ms Kiernan will continue to in 1st class until Ms Broughan and Ms Egan return after Easter
- Mr Keddy is liaising with Home School Coordinators in Bray regarding this years One Book, One Community reading initiative which promotes literacy. The book ("The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind") will be distributed to 5th & 6th classes and the initiative will likely proceed remotely
- 6th class hoodies may be subject to slight delays if restrictions continue. Parents will be advised if delays arise
- Many thanks to Grainne Fennell and Southside Travellers Action Group who visited 4th & 5th class recently to answer questions and provide some education of the Travelling Community. The school were the first to receive a specially designed Minceir (Traveller) Friend badge which was launched by Minister Catherine Martin with the school via zoom before Christmas
- Many thanks to the Men's Shed and Garda John Whelan for helping Santa visit the school before Christmas.

Treasurers Report & Fundraising:

- Current balance is €2,153.50 with a sum of €470.50 to be paid out for the purchase of selection boxes. Remaining balance will be €1,683.09
- It is hoped that the Springtime Draw will be able to take place this year but may be delayed. Aladdin may be used for parents to submit payment with community involvement also being looked at. Further details will be issued in due course.
- A final sum of money raised from the sale of Christmas cards is still outstanding

NPC Report:

- A helpline is available for parents if they have any queries or concerns regarding their children's education. The helpline is open Monday to Friday 10 am – 4pm on 01-8874477. This is a confidential service
- Check website for full details www.npc.ie

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 8th February 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