

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 10th May 2021 @ 8pm

Venue: Zoom due to current government restrictions

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

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from previous meetings approved

Principals Report:

- Current pupil numbers 347
- Staff Update – Ms Keyes and Ms Hurley will be retiring at the end of the school year. The position of deputy principal is hoped to be filled by the end of May. Ms Hegarty will also leave the school at the end of this year. Due to these staff changes there is likely to be a delay in issuing teacher lists for the coming school year.
- Incoming Junior Infants will be invited to visit the school on 4th June to see their classes and receive their packs. All children and parents will be required to adhere to full Covid protocols whilst in the school.
- In line with Dept of Education guidelines sports day will be held on a class-by-class basis and no parents will be invited to watch. Tours will be local walks and information about places of interest in the Newtown area. 6th class graduation will take place in the school for pupils only, parents will be invited to take part via zoom
- Festina Lente will visit the school over a 4-week period in June for children to meet their ponies. Children will meet the ponies in pairs and in line with Festina Lente's own guidelines all children must wear a mask. Further guidelines will be issued in advance.
- Dance with Zoe will also return in June and will take place outside
- 6th class will commence their transition to secondary school programme on Friday 14th May in class with Linda White and Lauren Collier
- Mr Keddy has offered to arrange a similar event for parents via zoom however he would need a commitment of at least 10 parents for this to take place. Mr Keddy will link in with parents in the coming weeks.
- Active Schools week takes place this week with most classes taking walks throughout the day.
- Carambola hot lunches will commence on 17th May. Children will still avail of the snacks as well as the hot lunches. It is hoped that Carambola can provide an option for hot lunch or a sandwich however this cannot be facilitated for the time being. Children are welcome to bring in their own cutlery if they wish however cutlery will be provided.
- A reminder that the school will close early on Wednesday 12th May

Treasurers Report:

- Current balance is €4,403.75
- Many thanks to all who have supported this years Spring Time Draw. There are 4 more draws remaining.
- A reminder that the clothes collection takes place on Thursday 14th 8:30-9:30
- Many thanks to all who brought in loose change for Copper Friday last week. The buckets will remain in the class until Friday 14th May if anyone would still like to send in change.

6th Class Funding Request: It has been agreed to provide €200 funding for 6th Class this year and each coming year to go towards a funding of hoodies or end of year reward – to be chosen by 6th Class. We are delighted to be able to support 6th Class in this manner which is being matched by the Board of Management

'Float': It has been agreed to leave a small sum of money available in the office should funds be required

NPC Report:

- Helpline remains open Mon to Fri on 01-8874477 for parents with queries in relation to education

AOB:

- Communion & Confirmation – Meetings will be held via zoom for parents of pupils due to make their Communions (2nd June) & Confirmations (20th May) this year as well as those that did not make their Confirmation last year. The parish will issue invites in the coming weeks. Confirmations will take place ahead of Communions but no date has been agreed yet
- Details of the calendar for next year should be available in the coming week
- Many thanks to 2nd & 6th Classes for their recent litter picking day
- Engineers from Wicklow County Council have agreed to install ramps on the road in the coming weeks as well as additional bollards where there are double yellow lines
- Carambola lunch bags are to be brought home each day. They should not be placed in the bin at the playground as this is causing the bin to fill up and often overflow. Pupils are asked not to remove the stickers and throw bags away

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 14th June 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