

## **Parents Association Meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 @ 8pm**

**Venue:** Zoom due to current government restrictions

**Present:** Geraldine Keogh, Michelle McDermott, Ciara Perks, Ruth Prenderville, Aoife McDermott, Grainne Fennell, Shaun Batstone, Guy Garrett, Ciaran Duffy, Sarah Ryan, Ms Lennon, Ms Hurley

**Apologies:** Loretto Martin

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from previous meetings approved

### **Committee Selection:**

Many thanks to all parties who put themselves forward for the various committee roles. The roles were filled as follows:

<i>Chairperson</i>	Geraldine Keogh
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Grainne Fennell
<i>Treasurer</i>	Guy Garrett
<i>Secretary</i>	Michelle McDermott
<i>NPC</i>	Ruth Prenderville

The committee and the school would like to thank previous committee members for their work over the last number of years.

The new committee will draft a constitution and undertake training on the role of a parents association.

### **Principals Report:**

- Currently 343 pupils enrolled in the school
- Board of Management will meet Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct and will review the child protection policy
- All pupils have settled back into school well
- Music Generation continues with Joan on Monday and Neil on Tuesday. Many thanks to the Community Centre for the use of the hall for education purposes
- GAA with Jackie is continuing while we have fine weather
- Cyber Safe Ireland will run an educational class with 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes around the area of being safe online, cyber bullying etc
- Letters continue to be published on the website, parents are asked to continue to review website for updates etc.
- Pupils can dress up for Halloween on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Accessories such as wings, devil forks etc are not to be brought to school

**Parent Teacher Meeting** – It is proposed that Parent Teacher Meetings are postponed until February when it is hoped that we will have clear guidelines regarding face-to-face meetings. If parents have any concerns they can contact the school and arrange a call with the class teacher. Teachers have committed to contacting parents if there are any issues they need to discuss regarding a pupil

**Enrolment** – Applications for enrolment for 2021-2022 open 2<sup>nd</sup> until 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. Decisions will be communicated on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and parents will have until 9<sup>th</sup> Dec to accept a position. There will be 54 places. Enrolment for ASD classes will also open during this period with availability dependent on capacity at the time. If subsequent spaces for ASD classes may become available throughout the year and parents will be informed accordingly.

**Surveys** – Two surveys will be sent to parents in the coming week. The first survey is from the Department of Education & Skills who are seeking parents view on the reopening of schools. The second survey is from the school regarding parents' views on homework – the value of homework; how children respond to homework; the format of homework etc. Both surveys will be sent out via Aladdin. Parents are strongly encouraged to respond to both surveys

### **SPHE & RSE Update: (Ms Hurley)**

- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) are key areas of the school curriculum and will be taught across all classes in the school
- SPHE incorporates Stay Safe, Walk Tall, PE, language, religion, geography, sexual education etc.
- Stay Safe programme is mandatory and deals with bully prevention, abuse prevention, correct terminology for body parts as well as information on puberty etc.
- Walk Tall programme is a support programme to enhance Stay Safe & RSE and promotes self-esteem, talents and confidence
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to use formal terminology for body parts with kids at home in line with these programmes
- Programmes support the importance to report any incidences if needed and research has shown that the use of correct terminology can assist in such instances

- The school will teach only age appropriate topics. If a child seeks further details they will be encouraged to discuss with their parents/guardians for more information
- Students in the classes for autism and those with additional needs will complete some lessons with the mainstream classes and some independently
- If any parent/guardian would like more information on the programmes they are welcome to contact Ms Hurley for further details

**Treasurers Report:**

- Clothes Collection raised €297.85 – many thanks to all who supported this fundraiser
- Tesco Ireland have kindly donated €300 in lieu of the Blue Token collection. These funds will be used to cover the cost of the class calendars this year

**Christmas Cards:**

- Pupils will design their Christmas cards in the coming weeks
- Cards will be available for ordering in packs of 6 at €10 or 12 at €15. Gift tags will be available at €5. Further details will be provided closer to the time
- It is acknowledged that the price of the cards has increased this year. As we will be unable to hold the annual bingo raffle or any other fundraiser before Christmas this will be the only fundraising event and we would hope that parents will support the school where possible

**NPC Report:**

- See website for details – [www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie)

**AOB:**

New School Building – The process has been delayed due to Covid. It is hoped that we will move to stage 3 (of a 5 stage process) by December. Further details will be provided in the Board of Management update which will be issued in the coming weeks.

Covid – It is acknowledged that the staff have not been impacted by Covid to date. If required, the school will use a panel of sub-teachers to cover any teachers who may be absent

**Next Meeting will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 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](mailto:parents@newtownprimary.ie)**