

## **Parents Association Meeting: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 @ 8pm**

**Venue:** Junior School

**Present:** Geraldine Keogh (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Loretto Martin (Treasurer), Aoife McDermott (National Parents Council Rep), Ciara Perks, Ruth Prenderville, Marilyn Fitzsimons, Ms Lennon

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

### **Committee Selection:**

Due to current guidelines this meeting was restricted in the numbers that could attend. As such, a new committee was not selected. Any parent that would like to become a committee member please contact a current member or email [parents@newtownprimary.ie](mailto:parents@newtownprimary.ie) ahead of the next meeting when the new committee will be selected. The current committee members and roles are listed above.

### **Principals Report:**

- Many thanks to the staff and parents for their assistance and cooperation in facilitating the successful reopening of the school
- Both drop-off and collection procedures are working well
- Class pods may change throughout the year to facilitate various learning activities
- Welcome to Ms Ryan & Ms. Dempsey who has joined us (4<sup>th</sup> Class) And Ms. Kiernan (1<sup>st</sup> Class)
- Welcome back to Ms Darcy, Ms Quinn, Mr Enright, Ms Monahan, Ms Keddy and all returning staff
- Welcome also to Erica Healy who has joined the school as an SNA and also Andrew Coster who has joined us as caretaker
- We wish a speedy recovery to staff who are currently on sick leave
- Sympathies to Paddy Hamilton and his family and Mrs Keyes, Sinead and their family on their recent losses
- Congratulations to Junior Infants who have all settled in well
- GAA with Jackie commenced this week – many thanks to Jackie for facilitating this
- Music Generation is to commence in Oct with classes to be held in the community centre – many thanks to the community centre
- Joan will be taking classes for singing which will be held outside weather permitting
- There will be no tin whistle this year. This will be replaced by the Bodhran. It is hoped to be rolled out to 2<sup>nd</sup> class upwards
- Many thanks to parents for keeping their sick children at home, we are very grateful for your ongoing cooperation
- The new building work remains on track at present
- The school has received funding for a new roof to the senior school building with work hoped to take place over October mid-term
- The previous site for the prefabs is no longer suitable. An alternative location is being considered
- A reminder that no notes will be sent home with pupils. Parents are asked to check the website and the Aladdin app for updates
- Carambola lunches have commenced for all classes this week
- There will be no homework until October as teachers work on best method for conducting work
- No further book fees are expected until January 2021
- Many thanks to all parents who have paid the school insurance via Aladdin
- Children are encouraged to walk or cycle to school. Bikes can be left on school premises during school hours
- The current issue with running water in 5<sup>th</sup> class is being looked into at present

**All parents are asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times. Where that is not possible, please wear a mask. Parents are asked to be mindful of others and to avoid congregating at areas such as the school gates and at the pedestrian crossings**

### **Treasurers Report & Fundraising:**

- A total of €18,000 has been raised since 2018. Details of how these funds have been spent is to be provided by the Board of Management
- Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the school. Your continued support is greatly appreciated by the whole school who benefit from these funds
- The committee is seeking suggestions from parents for fundraising events that could be held in the coming academic year

### **NPC Report:**

- Cyber safe warning around online gaming with many younger children now taking part in such activities
- Article on getting technology right in schools
- See website for full details

### **AOB:**

- It is intended to have as many activities take places where possible such as Halloween dress up and Santa visit. All activities will strictly adhere to the current guidelines
- The committee wish to thank the school and all staff for their efforts in re opening the school and to acknowledge the hard work done by all staff who worked from home at the end of last year. Finally to thank everyone involved in the 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation which was a huge success

**Next Meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in the Junior School.  
If any parent would like to raise any questions ahead of the next meeting please contact any  
member of the committee or email [parents@newtownprimary.ie](mailto:parents@newtownprimary.ie)**

**The format of these meetings will be revisited in line with current guidelines regards attendance etc**