

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 13th November 2017 @8pm

Venue: Junior School

Present: Ann-Marie Elliott, Loretto Martin, Ciara Perks, Colette McDermott, Grace Garde, Marilyn Fitzsimons, Ruth Prendeville, Aoife McDermott, Debra Spillane and Carmel Dempsey.

Apologies: Sarah Ryan (Chair).

Father Daly attended the meeting to update parents on the ongoing issues for sacramental preparation and the amalgamation of confirmation in the Kilcoole parish church. With 2 full classes from NTMK and 4 from Kilcoole, it would be impossible for all attendees to fit in the local church. Also consideration has to be made for personnel available for the whole parish, there are 5 other elderly priests some of whom are out sick currently and one due to retire at the end of this month, all spread across the 7 mass centres.

It was pointed out the future reality shows it's unlikely any priest would be replaced as numbers of priests being ordained decline worldwide and falling mass attendance of 10% locally.

Confirmation dates were noted as fixed by the Dioceses and some compromises would have to be made by all, this may be in the frame of parents or siblings no longer able to attend or reverting to every 2 years.

The PA Association urged Father Daly to consider the views of the parents to keep sacraments in the village. Feedback would be given with the intention to reply to the discussion document at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to all parents and contributors for their assistance, these funds are a valuable addition to school funds. Funds received to date:

Sponsored Walk	€5,263.40
Cake Sale	€ <u>780.49</u>
	€6,043.89

St Matthews Christmas Bazaar, Sunday 3rd December. The School has been kindly given a stall for sale of arts and crafts, donations of all types of crafts are very much welcomed and can be dropped off in the Junior school office by 1st December. It was also noted the school choir would be singing at the Bazaar. Timings details are:

- Christmas bazaar starts @3pm in the grounds of St. Matthews church on Church Road
- Santa from 3.30pm-4.30pm
- Stalls & items for sale
- Lovely community atmosphere all are welcome
- Come for the Big Sing with the 'Steadfast Band' & NTMK Primary school choir 5pm-6pm
- Walk together to the mainstreet & turn on the lights in the village from 6.30pm-7pm where Santa returns on his sleigh!!!

A suggestion for any parents who wish to make items to attend a group in the school one day a week beforehand could contact Deirdre Lennon.

Hampers for Bingo Christmas Raffle, donations of unused non perishable items would be appreciated by 1st of December, please drop these off in the Junior School Office. This is a valuable fundraiser for the school and support is appreciated.

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Andrew Waters.

Kilcoole Feis, well done to all who participated last week and thanks to Loretto Martin for her assistance in preparing the students for competition.

School crossings – the Council had been requested to put in 3 new crossings at the entrance to Wicklow Hills, the top of the road near the roundabouts and at the set down area by the senior school, it was anticipated these will be in place shortly. It was noted the Council are not responsible for signage so Wicklow Hills would be approached on this matter. Parents are reminded to please slow down on approach to these areas and be mindful of pedestrians crossing.

School enrolment numbers, the school has been granted an extension by the Dept of Education until the 1st of December to source 1 further pupil to ensure we keep our teacher numbers. If anyone knows someone moving to the area, please encourage them to contact the school asap. The Principal also noted the shortage of sub-teachers nationally, whilst any planned absences could be accommodated within current numbers, spontaneous absences may require the short-term merging of two classes in future.

Science Week 2017 takes place from 12-19 November. Celebrate the fascinating worlds of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) during Science Week. There will be lots of events happening across the country which you can find out more about on www.scienceweek.ie. Our thanks to Grace Garde for her assistance.

Science week in Newtownmountkennedy Primary School

- Tuesday 14th November, 2017; Cre8 Sustainability workshops with 6th class
- Wednesday 15th November, 2017; Science Day for all classes in the Junior School in the Junior school Hall
- Thursday 16th November, 2017; Science Day for all classes in the Senior School in the Senior school hall
- Friday 17th November, 2017; 'Recreate' sustainability workshop with Ms Cheevers 5th Class

Newtownmountkennedy & District Tidy Towns Sustainable Resource Management Event on Saturday 25th November, Coillte Headquarters 10am-2pm. By Invitation only to Tidy Towns groups in Wicklow & DLRCC if specific interested parties wish to attend & receive a program of events please email Jim Callery on eao@wicklowcoco.ie; New members wishing to join Tidy Towns please come to our meeting in the Community Centre at 7pm on the second last Monday of the month.

Parents Association Facebook page: available at: *Newtown Primary Parents Association*. This is a closed group and only available to current parents of children in the school. Please take a moment to join as we post updates regularly.

For further updates please visit: www.newtownprimary.ie or the Parents Association Facebook page.

Date of next Meeting: **MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER AT 8.00pm in JUNIOR SCHOOL STAFFROOM.**
Parents are encouraged to attend.