

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Meeting of Parents of Children with Autism.

February 27th 2017.

Present: Parents of Children with Autism in Ms. Hurley's Class, Ms. Russell's Class, Ms. Donlon's Class, Ms. Egan's Class

- **Secondary Schools:** Parents are still very concerned at the limited choice of Second Level Placement for Children with Autism. Parents are advised to consult School Websites re Admission Policies, Application process etc. Choice is very limited re children who will continue to need support and resources at Second Level. Jim Jordan SENO can be contacted re school placement.
- **School Transport:** Please notify Transport Operator in good time if your child will not be travelling on the bus/ is late/ will not be going home on the bus/ change of person collecting your child from the bus. Also it is important to text/phone when your child is returning to school after illness or absence.
- **Service Agencies:** Beechpark Services are accepting names on waiting lists for service. Michelle has started work with some children re OT. Many families have now access to services from Beechpark Services. Some families depend on HSE Early Intervention or School Age Teams while other families are registered with Primary Care Teams. Parents are reminded to check re School Hearing/Vision/Vaccinations at age appropriate times. There is a School Dental Service from Bray for Children with Special Needs.
- **EXTRA CURRICULAR COURSES:** , Swimming & Festina Lente at present. Many Thanks to a family who have generously donated €5,000 to help defray costs associated with Festina Lente. Yoga for all classes have started with Maura Broaders. The charge for Yoga will be covered by School Funding given that Classes for Children with Autism go swimming all year and parents fund the swimming programme without any subsidy. Enquiries to be made re DRUMMING and perhaps more music programmes.
- **Communication Books:** Parents are reminded of the importance of Home/School Communication in Homework Journal or Communication Book. These books are given to parents at the end of the school year. Information contained in Communication Books cannot be shared with Third Parties.
- **Irish Autism Registry:** is looking for Families to register with them as a forum to address services in Wicklow and Kildare.
- **PA Facebook page:** Debra Spillane to link with Ciara Perks re relevant issues
- **Death of Barra:** As a Group we send condolences to Tracy, Colm, Jamie and Kayla. Deep sadness among families at Barra's death. Children and Parents met Barra regularly with his family for social outings etc. Thanks to all Teachers and School staff for sensitive manner in which Barra's death was explained to the children. Continued support will be needed for many of our Children with Autism.
- **Date of Next Meeting:** APRIL 24th 2017.

