 **Scoil Naomh Iósaf, Baltinglass**

**Board of Management Report to Parents Following their Meetings on**

**February 11th and February 25th 2021**

**Communication, Teaching and Learning:** Online learning via. Seesaw is going really well and the teachers are working very hard to ensure active and engaging tasks on Seesaw and also to give constructive and affirming feedback to the children as much as possible. Approximately 95% are engaging very well with their online learning and teachers complimented the fantastic support and assistance of parents to their child/ren’s learning. Many teachers are also hosting zoom calls once or twice a week to check in with the children, to facilitate communication and sharing or to teach a short lesson. Each teacher plans for the week(s) ahead with his/her partner teacher and SET teacher. Teachers are focusing on new learning and the extension of topics/concepts already taught in English, Irish and Maths each day. One other subject and PE is also presented each day. Work is scheduled for 9:00 each day but children and families have flexibility in terms of when the work is completed and uploaded. The staff have regular Zoom meetings and there are also Zoom meetings between various individuals and groups across the school.

**RÉALTA Return to School on February 22nd:** was very successful. The pupils were absolutely delighted to be back to school and settled into routine very quickly. The staff are greatly looking forward to the return of infants to 2nd on March 1st and hopefully all remaining pupils on March 15th.

**Pupils with Special Educational Needs, including EAL and Pupils in RÉALTA:** continue to be supported by the Learning Support teachers and SNAs that usually support them in school. Work packs with appropriate work and reading material are left at the side entrance for pupils to collect/return. Teachers are in contact with the pupils on Seesaw and in direct contact with parents by phone or email. SET teachers also engage in one-to-one zoom video calls to foster communication, practice reading or engage in an activity. Further details are available in our Remote Learning Policy.

**Google Forms Survey:** All teachers issued a centrally developed google forms survey to the parents in their class at the end of the second week of online learning. Overall, the children like Seesaw and feel the work is just right. A number of parents mentioned that their child/ren would like to have a Zoom call to communicate/see their friends. A zoom policy was developed in consultation with staff and parents and Zoom is now feature of online provision in SNI. A number of children didn’t have access to a device so the school loaned some iPads to a number of families.

**Supplementary In-Person Home Based Tuition:** The Government has announced that a supplementary in-person home based tuition or care support programme will be available to pupils with complex needs (Autism/Down Syndrome/Sensory Procession etc.). The Programme involves an allocation of five hours per week over a four-week period. The Deputy Principal, Carmel Doyle and Fionnuala Larkin have been organising the programme. The Programme should be done outside of school hours and may be done at weekends or during the Easter Holidays. The Programme must be completed by April 30th.

**Partial Return to School on February 22nd and March 1st.** The School Protocol/Response Plan (Draft 6) has been updated in line with the latest Guidance from the Department of Education. Points to note:

* A Parental Declaration Form/Return to Education Form has been devised on Google Forms. This will need to be filled by parents when their children are returning to school after any absence. This was sent to all parents by email and by text.
* Relevant information in relation to school reopening will be sent to parents prior to their children returning to school. All updated information and Covid related procedures in SNI is outlined in the School Protocol/Response plan which was emailed to parents and is also available on the school website.
* Staff were reminded at the Staff Zoom on February 12th to review the relevant training undertaken prior to the September return. The school induction PowerPoint was updated to alert staff to the changes to the School Covid-19 Protocol/Response plan as outlined in the *COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable operation of Primary and Special Schools* Version 3 February 2021.
* Additional PPE has been purchased, including KN95 masks and a significant number of medical grade masks.
* The Covid-19 Risk Assessment was also updated.

**Parent Teacher Meetings:** Parent teacher meetings have been completed. The staff used Doodle to facilitate parents to schedule a date/time that suited them for the meetings. Any parent who would like a follow up meeting once the children return to school may contact their child’s teacher by email to make an appointment.

**First Aid:** ‘First Aid for Everyone’ provided an excellent Zoom First Aid course for SNAs and three teachers on February 12th. The course focused on First Responders, use of Defibrillator, advice on dealing with children with Asthma, Diabetes and Anaphylactic.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Fr. Ger created a lovely prayerful and reflective video for the children to chat with them about Catholic Schools Week which was uploaded to Aladdin and sent to all children of Catholic Faith in the school.

**School Self-Evaluation** - on still on hold. However continuous self-evaluation is being done in relation to the operation of the Covid-19 response plan and the curricular areas/topics that need to be focused on in each class to bridge the gaps in learning caused by school closures.

**Professional Development** – Many teachers undertake courses relevant to their teaching on a regular basis. Recent courses undertaken include, Social Communication, Sensory Processing, Type 1 Diabetes and a course on teaching spelling “Words their Way”.

**Buy-A-Brick:** The school staff, Parent Association and Board of Management are extremely grateful to the generous donations that we have continued to receive during lockdown. We are most thankful for each and every donation and will continue to promote Buy-A-Brick on our return to school. We are delighted that we have received over €10.500 of our €30,000 target.

**Safer Internet Day:** was February 9th 2021. To mark the day, the Principal sent an email to parents encouraging them to have a conversation with their child/children to ensure safe use of the internet and online Apps. The Principal also included links to the National Parents Council zoom presentations on Internet Safety, the ZEEKO book on Safe Use of the Internet and materials from WebWise that are suitable for third to sixth class pupils. The Parents Association uploaded fantastic information sheets on various online platforms that pupils tend to access to the school Facebook Page for parents to access. The information sheets are also available on the school website.

**Policy Ratification:** The Board discussed and approved the following policies:

* + Religion Policy
  + Teacher Absence Policy
  + Child Safeguarding, Risk Assessment and Checklist.
  + Sustainable Environment/Green Schools Policy
  + Zoom Policy
  + Career Break Policy
  + Remote Learning Policy

These policies are now uploaded to the school website.

Please note that the Board completed the required checklist in relation to child safeguarding/protection and associated risk assessment and the declaration from the Board confirming this is attached to this here also.

**Next Board Meeting:** March/April 2021 TBC