

# Scoil Naomh Íosaf, Baltinglass



## Board of Management Report to Parents Following their Meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

- **Teaching and Learning During Covid-19:** Teachers have set up and are using Seesaw as an online learning platform. It has been a steep learning curve for teachers, pupils and staff but all have embraced it willingly. The Board commended the staff on their hard work and commitment to ensure continuity of education for the pupils during the Covid-19 school closure. The staff have all been following up on pupils who are not engaging with online learning (e.g. due to unstable internet or lack of devices) and have been organising alternative work for the pupils. The staff are using Zoom to ensure ongoing communication between staff.
- **Information for Parents:** The Principal will ensure regular communication with parents via text and email.
- **Special Educational Needs.** Tremendous work is being done to support children with Special Educational needs in Scoil Naomh Íosaf. This includes, organising levelled books for parents to collect, preparation and posting/delivery of learning packs, video calling and personalised support on Seesaw. The REALTA teachers and SNAs are supporting the pupils with ASD but assigning life skills, literacy activities similar to those they have completed in school, differentiated Maths activities, sensory activities and supporting parents in developing a routine for the children to follow.
- **Calendar 0005/2020 Standardised School Year for 2020/2021:** The Board agreed the school calendar for the 2020/2021 school year based on the Circular. However, the calendar may be changed in the light of public health advice so will not be published until guidance is issued in relation to school re-opening.
- **Admissions Policy:** The Board wish to thank all the parents who commented on the draft admissions policy and made suggestions or amendments. The Admissions Policy was approved and ratified by the Board and submitted to the Patron for approval. The current admissions policy which is published on the school website will remain in operation until August 2019. In line with the Admissions to School Act 2018, the new Admissions policy and application form will be published in September 2020 and implemented from there on.
- **Supervision Policy:** The Board would like to thank all the parents who contributed to the updating and review of the supervision policy. The policy was approved and ratified by the Board and will be implemented from September 2020.
- **Attendance:** Attendance in SNI for the period from January 6<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 was 94.4% compared with 94.8 for the same period in 2019.
- **BEACONS:** Details re. BEACONS is now presented in an information letter which will be issued to all staff and parents and published on the school website.
- **School Self-Evaluation:** Maths. Analyses of the Standardised test results showed that Maths results in Scoil Naomh Íosaf are excellent and are well ahead of National norms. A survey is being prepared for pupils to elicit their attitude towards Maths. The staff will also be surveyed in relation to current effective practices that should be continued to ensure that maths in SNI

continues to be of a high standard. Board agreed that Ms. Eimer Casey would cover the maternity leave, commencing May 24<sup>th</sup>.

- **Additional Accommodation Update:** The Building construction company Glenflow were onsite until Lockdown. Currently there is no work happening on site.