

Scoil Noamh Íosaf, Baltinglass



Board of Management Report to Parents Following their Meeting on January 29th 2020

- The Board look forward to supporting the work of the school over their four-year term.
- The school extension is progressing very well and the architect and builders anticipate that the build will be completed early in the Summer.
- The board commend the range of professional development courses being undertaken by teachers in the school. Five teachers completed the *Mata-sa-Rang* course over five evenings in Kildare Education Centre. Two teachers attended a two-day TEACCH course in preparation for teaching in RÉALTA in the coming year. Teachers also attended courses on wellbeing, physical activity, healthy eating, *Lámh*, *Effective Interventions for Struggling Readers* and *Understanding Behaviour and Social Skills*.
- Two special needs assistants attended training on behaviour and social skills and another attended a course on Down Syndrome.
- All teaching staff attended the in-service day on the Primary Language Curriculum given by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST).
- The Primary Language Curriculum (PLC) is being now being implemented from infants to sixth classes in both English and Irish.
- The focus of school self-evaluation for this year is Maths. The teachers will be collecting data from parents and pupils and creating a school self-evaluation report and a school improvement plan which will be shared with parents on the school website, once complete.
- The board approved the accounts for the period from September 1st 2019 to August 31st 2020. The accounts were submitted in the format recommended by the Financial Services Support Unit (FSSU) and were audited by O’Keeffe Lynch Accountants, Baltinglass. The approved accounts have now been forwarded to the Patron.
- The board commended the pupils on their excellent behaviour and positive attitude towards school.
- Attendance was 94.4% in the period from August 29th to December 22nd down from 95.7 in the same period last year (due mainly to pupil illness in December 2019).
- The board approved the Buy-A-Brick fundraiser and acknowledged the tremendous amount of time and effort the members of the Parent Association fundraising committee have put into the organisation of this fundraising effort for an outdoor playground for the school.
- The board look forward to meeting the Parent Association members at a date to be agreed in April.
- A Facebook Page is to be set up by the Parent Association to promote the Buy-A-Brick fundraiser and to notify parents about key events happening in the school.

- Scoil Naomh Íósaf were delighted to be part of the second ever BEACONS initiative organised by the Teaching Council. The Principal will send a letter to parents giving details of this event which included students, staff and parents from Scoil Naomh Íósaf and other local schools.
- The Principal outlined the ongoing range of curricular and extra-curricular activities available to pupils, including, Zumba, Music Generation, Chess, GAA, Basketball, Choir, Drama, Band, Traditional Irish Music, Swimming and Write-A-Book.
- The board were delighted to fund 10 additional computers for teaching and learning in the school.