**Agreed Report by BOM from Meeting held 15/01/2018**

**Board of Management 2017/2018**

Chairperson Joseph O’Shaughnessy

Secretary Emer Russell

Teacher Nominee Louise Whittle

Parent Nominees Noel Ivanoff

Treasurer Concepta Church

**Christmas Cards**

The Christmas card initiative went ahead this year and it was a huge success. This raised €725 for Parents Association endeavours such as Communion Teas. The Board of Management wish to thank Concepta Church for all the work in organising

**Newsletter**

Thanks to all involved in producing the newsletter before Christmas. The Board wish to thank Aideen O’Shaughnessy and Olivia Molloy for all their help in publishing. The newsletter will be increased to six pages to provide for everything going on in the school currently. A children’s page will be included with submissions from the pupils.

**Christmas Concert**

The school Christmas concert was a huge success.

The Board wish to thank everyone involved in running this event.

Particular thanks are extended to;

* Carmel Duke for creating beautiful hampers for the raffle
* Mary Byrne for collecting money at the door
* All school staff for co-ordinating the event
* Board of Management for attending and supporting
* Parents for attending and supporting so generously
* Fiona Kelly for taking professional photos on the night
* All parents who donated prizes
* Cruinniu, Castletown Church choir and Johanna Murphy and friends for adding to the night with beautiful music

The concert raised €1495. This money will be used for arts endeavours in school along with a few other initiatives.

John Spillane, a trad musician will host a 1-1 ½ hour concert. The whole school will learn songs and then perform these songs along with John at the concert. This will be scheduled for the end of February.

A wish list of how the remainder of the money is to be spent is being compiled.

**Vicar for Education**

Fr. Dan O’Connor sent information booklets on the Catholic Ethos to the school. Both the Board and school staff will familiarise themselves with how to promote our ethos as a Catholic school.

A recommendation has also been made by Fr. Dan O’Connor that the Board should ensure each classroom is equipped with a crucifix, bible, statue of Mary and Grow in Love resources.

**Bricks for Kidz**

Bricks for Kidz is a Lego based educational programme that introduces engineering concepts through Lego. The school has booked this programme to coincide with Engineering Week. This programme will deliver workshops which explain engineering concepts.

The Board has agreed to fund half of the overall cost.

Remainder of the money will be covered the Christmas Concert proceeds.

**Job Share**

The Board has approved the request to continue the Job Share position for the 2018/2019 academic year.

The teaching position created by this job share will need to be re-advertised.

**Child Protection**

The Board and school staff have familiarised themselves with the new Child Protection Guidelines that have recently been published.

Emer Russell has attended training and further training will be undertaken by staff.

A Child Safeguarding Statement will be drawn up in line with new procedures.

**Enrolment**

The annual enrolment information night will be the 21st March.

**Paired reading**

Paired reading has started with current cohort of garda vetted parents. The involvement of other parents is delayed due to the delay in the vetting process at present.

**Continuous Professional Development**

Mindfulness Training will take place on 22nd January for whole staff.

Other staff members have attended courses on;

* Supporting Children with Emotional Difficulties from Lucena Clinic
* Reading recovery- ongoing
* Practical Strategies to Help Primary School Children Learn and Develop Regulation Skills.

Other staff will attend courses on;

* NIPT training- delivering workshops for Newly Qualified Teachers
* Team teaching

**Policies and Procedures**

The Board ratified the Physical Education Policy.

The Board ratified the Dignity at Work Policy.

The Board has agreed, in line with common practice, a Deputy Principal’s contract is required.

The Board has sanctioned that a child can be suspended if he/she raise health and safety issues for either staff or fellow students.

**Flu**

With the current outbreak of flu, the Board will follow recommendations received from the HSE.

Children must be sent home if the first signs of flu present themselves in school.

Parents are being advised that if their child presents with any sign of flu, they must stay home. Children should stay home for 5 days at least or when they are fully better.

Children can bring hand sanitiser and their own towel to school.

The school is taking a proactive approach to prevent the outbreak from worsening.

**Cyber Bullying**

Issues that arise outside school are outside the school’s responsibility. However, the school will enable discussion between parents to solve any issues. Parents Association have been given details of a speaker who can deliver a talk on internet safety.

**Other**

* Planetarium visit was a huge success.
* Lisa Dempsey sent her thanks for the gift sent on behalf of the school.
* A short piece regarding the school was published in the Arklow parish newsletter.
* **Arklow Music Festival**- Entries for the festival have been submitted.
* **Standardised tests** will take place 22nd/23rd/24th May.
* Frances McDevitt will deliver RSE talks to the 4th/5th/6th classes in line with books and guidelines.
* **Active School Committee** will host another Bring Your Scooter to School day on 26th January.
* **Active School Committee** will hold a jersey day fundraiser.
* **Dogs Trust** will visit the school on the 29th January.
* **Hurling-** Niall Breen will facilitate a hurling blitz for 4th-6th classes. This blitz will include the 3 schools; Castletown, Tara Hill and Coolgreany. It will take place after school, one day per week.
* Following the request from the SENO, the Board discussed the establishment of an ASD unit. The Board will undertake further research on this.
* **SESS-** Marie Byrne from the SESS will come to the school on February 8th. She will advise teachers on how to work with children with ASD.
* **Ice on yard-** The Board is very conscious of the hazard ice poses to children. Current protocol is placing cones around ice and guiding children in around more severe ice. On days with severe ice children will be kept in all day.