

RETNS Board of Management Meeting, 5 September, 2016 - Report to the School Community

A warm welcome to the new families joining the RETNS community this year. This monthly, one-page report is designed to inform the school community about the activities of the RETNS Board of Management. For more information and to see previous reports, please visit the BoM's page on www.retns.ie.

School Finances and Development: The BoM discussed the school's financial position at some length. As we have communicated previously, after substantial investment in school development projects in 2015, RETNS is currently short of funds. As a result, further development of school facilities and expansion of the opportunities we can offer our children cannot take place until additional income is generated.

The BoM began work on a new strategy over the summer. This will centre on two tasks: the production and publication of an *RETNS School Development Plan 2017-2020* and the establishment of a sustainable model of income generation. It was decided that this must be a priority over coming months. The aim is to tackle both tasks through partnership with all RETNS stakeholders. It is vital that we recognise the seriousness of the school's financial situation and make a collective effort to address it. Please look out for forthcoming communications on school development and a brainstorming session on income generation.

Accounts: The BoM approved the school accounts up to 31/08/2015. Accounts for the year ending 31/08/2016 are to be submitted to the school's accountant in the coming weeks.

Enrolment: The BoM is committed to transparency on enrolment and other matters. We have drafted an FAQ document for the school website in relation to the revised enrolment policy, but we continue to receive requests for additional information, especially in relation to enrolment and pre-enrolment lists. Once this is compiled, the FAQ document will be posted on the website and the school community will be informed in a separate communication. The intention is that this will be a rolling document to which further information can be added as needed. We will welcome any and all feedback, comments or queries from the school community.

Front of School: The BoM is exploring multiple options to assess and fund alterations to the area in front of school, which are necessary in order to improve safety. We again urge drivers to slow right down and NOT to park here unless there is a clear space against the wall. Please reverse into spaces. Parking on the path/gravel makes it harder for other drivers to see children and means that the children have more cars to avoid. Please do NOT do it.

Trees: The BoM decided to approach a tree surgeon in order to obtain an assessment of the condition and safety of the poplar trees lining the school's front wall, in accordance with health and safety best practice.

The BoM also considered some routine matters, which for reasons of confidentiality are not included in this report.

RETNS Board of Management (bom@retns.ie).