

RETNS Board of Management Meeting, 26th August, 2019 – Report to the School Community

Welcome: Welcome back to everyone and a special new welcome to the families of children in Junior Infants who have joined our school community this year.

Volunteering: The BoM discussed general plans for the year ahead. RETNS depends greatly on the willingness of members of the school community to volunteer. There are opportunities via the Parents Association, through the Development Committee, or simply by helping out with and attending events, while in November a new BoM will be formed. We would like to encourage as many as possible to get involved in your school.

School Development: The BoM was updated on the work of the RETNS Development Committee. Options for improvements to our outdoor space have been drawn up and will be subject to consultation with staff. The BoM would like to thank the committee and the volunteers from the school community who have been generous with their time and skills.

(For your diary**) Events:** The Development Committee has fixed dates for some events. After a successful initiation last year, the table quiz will return on **24 October** in the Dropping Well. The popular annual Craft Fair will take place on **1 December**. Both events are good for getting friends and extended families involved, so please put them in your diary and invite people along. A larger fundraising event is also being planned for early 2020 and a bag-pack at the end of February – keep an eye out for further notices.

Summer Works Application: RETNS submitted an application for a 2020 Summer Works Grant to fund much needed improvements to the boiler and heating system. We should find out whether we were successful before the end of 2019. Thanks to all those involved for their hard work in preparing the application.

Finance: There has been a steady improvement in the school's financial position over recent years. However, finance remains limited – hence the ongoing need for fundraising to maintain and develop our school.

Class sizes: The BoM decided that the target class size should be amended to 27. This is one above the Department of Education and Skills recommendation, but low in comparison to neighbouring schools. While the size of individual classes will vary a little, the aim is for 27 to be the average across RETNS.

Policies: The BoM agreed to develop a new policy on protected disclosures.

Alarm: The BoM was briefed about the malfunctioning of the alarm system and associated call-outs. Costings for repairs are being undertaken.

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

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