



Parent Teacher Association

Chairperson: Niall Tuite
Secretary: Martha Fanning
Treasurer: Steve Hiles

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PTA Minutes: Monday 6th February, 2017

Attendees: Glenn Sherry, Niall Tuite, Martha Fanning, Steve Hiles, Aideen Hartney, Dee Langrell, Gill Davis, Adeleh Davis, Vanessa Fitzgerald

Apologies: Emma Laffan, Andrea McNamara, Shirley Thornton

1. Correspondence

None

2. Spring Events

a) M&S bag packing to be investigated.

b) International Day is set for March 24th. Parents, grandparents, minders are invited to pick a country of particular interest/relevance to them, and prepare facts, phrases and food, for the different classes to explore over the course of Friday 24th. The event is held in the Parish Hall.

Gill Davis has prepared a note seeking parents to get involved in preparing a table/country (note sent Feb 7th). Set up meeting planned for Friday 10th at 9.30 in The Mellow Fig.

Invite for parents, grandparents, minders to view the event will be issued nearer the time.

3. Bike-shed Improvement

Niall and Steve progressing with contacts for flooring and walls, with a view to having plans and costs to review at the next PTA meeting.

4. Timing of Parent Teacher Meetings

The timing of Parent Teacher meetings was again brought to the attention of the PTA. The Dept. of Education and Skills circular on the matter (PC 14/04) was reviewed at the BOM/PTA catch up in November 2016; the feedback being that was "a local agreement" in place. The PTA subsequently received a letter making the point that the school may be in the wrong, given that the circular states "*In any event the parent/teacher meeting will not take place during the school tuition period.*" The letter also noted that a local agreement, established in the late 90s or earlier, may no longer be valid, given that contemporary families share parenting duties more evenly, and that holding PT meetings between 8.30 and 2.10 may preclude fathers from being able to attend.

The key issues emerging from the PTA discussion were as follows:

a) It was noted that the role of the PTA is to ensure the views of all parents are heard, as such the PTA will request that the BOM discuss this at their next meeting.



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- b) In the broader discussion around the topic there was no desire amongst attendees at the meeting to move Parent Teacher meetings from the existing 8.30-2.10, to the 3.15-5.45 time slots mentioned in the circular. There was perceived to be no benefit to working parents, irrespective of gender, as the vast majority of time slots would still occur during the working day, requiring time off from work, for this once a year event.
 - c) It was noted that parents can request an alternative appointment, and that there was no evidence of this being difficult to arrange.
 - d) Those with a civil-service understanding, noted that a Circular was an advisory/guidance document only, with no legislative powers.

AOB

- 1) Cyber Safety Talk
This was a well-attended, informative evening. The key points of the evening will be circulated.
- 2) Second Hand Sports Gear – Swap/Handover Morning. This will take place on Friday 17th February. Feel free to bring any unused sports gear to the Parish Hall, 8.30-9.30.
- 3) Niall to book Junior Games for Sports Day, as has been the case for the last few years.
- 4) PTA currently has €7,700 in its account, with €500 due to be paid out for the Cyber Safety talks. A budget of €5,000 has been allocated to refurbishing the Bike Sheds.
- 5) It was thought that three out of four of the locks on the toilet doors in the girls' toilets are not currently working. The PTA requested that this be addressed as a matter of urgency, if this had not yet happened.
- 6) PTA meetings: Gleeson's on Mondays 6th March, 3rd April, 6th May and 12th June. (NB 6th May a bank holiday, may shift to 8th May).