

Principal's Report 18th October 2016

Pupils

There are **423** pupils in the school, 238 boys and 185 girls. We returned a figure of 426 on September 30th . A couple of leaver since then. We are accepting applications from children who have no school place and we not accepting transfers from another schools at the moment.

Parental Involvement Activities see chart

- Junior Infants and Senior Infants parents' night on Tuesday 25th at 7:30pm. Curriculum Hart
- Chart
- As well as these activities this is Maths week and there is a number of activities arranged across the school to highlight maths and problem solving in particular. Maths for Fun in 1st Class. Senior infants maths trail with parents. Second class parents were in this morning and Gemma and I gave pour maths packs and discussed benefit of playing maths games with children. Initiative we brought in last year which was a great success with two second classes and improvements were seen in test results in both classes. There has been maths trails on all week with parent in working with children in the senior end of the school.

We have just commenced Guided reading, anew initiative started last year, reading in groups with two teachers in each class reading with groups who have been tested and are all reading at their instructional level. I have organised for an advisor form the PDST to come for CPD training .Very heavy input from teachers and SEN department to improve and to increase reading levels in the school.

ECAS

Over the years teachers have given their time freely for ECAs However, last year one teacher who had done special training in drama offered out paid class to children in the school. Shew was qualified to send her children for exams and qualifications in her area and we agreed to allow this to go ahead, Following this, other teachers made representations that they also should be paid for their time. We know that there are many families who struggle to pay extra and it was one of the great things about this school that there were activities, football, athletics, chess, drama, computer coding, basketball offered to children for free and it was felt that it was important to hold on to that. So after much discussion with in school management and senior management and in consultation we Peggy we decided that we would offer teachers an amount of €100 for a seires of lessons , a term for example, up to €300 for three terms should a teacher wish to do that. This payment would be in the form of gift vouchers and there would be no tax implications for the school or the teachers with this arrangement. Two clubs have started Spanish and Chess and we are hopeful that other clubs will also start. There are also outside paid clubs art, music tin whistle which children pay for themselves. These are run by outside teachers. There are also ballet lessons and gymnastic classes run in the school building that children can join and pay for.

RSE

There has been a move on the staff to revise the RSE policy. Teachers have met and we will be looking to involve BOM members and PTA members if there are recommendations to change the existing policy.

- **New Language Curriculum**

DES are introducing a new language curriculum in all primary schools commencing next September. The new Primary Language Curriculum/Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile for English and Irish has been developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). This curriculum is for teachers of pupils of all abilities in the junior primary years, i.e. from junior infants to second class inclusive. Teaching of English and Irish.

School Year 2016/17

There will be an initial emphasis on the Oral Language/Teanga ó Bhéal strand. From September 2016, this strand will begin to be implemented for infants to second class.

School Year 2017/18

From September 2017 the Reading/Léitheoireacht and Writing/Scríbhneoireacht strands will begin to be implemented for infants to second class alongside the oral language strand.

School Year 2018/19

From September 2018, there will be full implementation of all strands for infants to second class.

School Year 2019/20

From September 2019, implementation of Primary Language Curriculum/Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile for third to sixth class will begin.

There will be one whole day training for teachers this term, haven't heard what date yet. School will be closed that day. I will give parents as much notice as possible about this