



Blessington Educate Together NS

BOM Parent-Guardian Report

October, 2020

Hello All,

At BETNS, the Board of Management (BOM) meet periodically to discuss matters arising that affect the day to day running of the school. We hope to be in a position to issue a report for BETNS parents and guardians summarising the outcomes of these meetings so everyone can have a better understanding of what is happening at BETNS.

Each meeting generally follows an agenda including a report from the principal and BOM treasurer. Meetings minutes are taken and archived.

Our most recent meeting was on September 22nd and a summary is provided below.

The BETNS BOM met over Zoom and six, out of the eight, members were available to participate. After a brief introduction from the Chair, the meeting minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed. Any matters that were not closed out are carried forward to the next meeting.

The principal then read his report for review which is summarised below:

Principal's Report:

Enrolment

We currently have 53 pupils enrolled for the 2020-21 academic year.

Staff

- Jonathan is the Junior Room teacher.
- Fiona is covering Conor's career break and is the Middle Room teacher.
- Claire is the Senior Room teacher.
- Lynn is our Special Education Teacher.
- James Sullivan has been appointed as our SNA.
- Angela Cox is teaching every Tuesday in the Junior Room to enable Jonathan to attend to administration work during this time.
- We have two newly qualified, Garda Vetted, SNA volunteers; Dorothy, who is volunteering three days per week in Jonathan's room and Olive who is volunteering one day each week in the Junior Room.

Curriculum

We have introduced our Learn Together Whole School ethical education plan and our Writing Genres Literacy plan. The focus for Term 1 is Narrative Writing.

Staff have agreed, and following DES guidelines, that we needed to find a balance between wellbeing and learning as we returned to school. As a result of this we decided to extend outside play time during September returning to previous times from October.



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Policies

Admissions Policy completed and available on www.betns.ie

Covid-19 Policy and related plans/documents completed and available on www.betns.ie

Extra Curricular/After schools

Postponed until at least Term 3.

Resources

There has been significant investment in

- Graded readers for the Middle Room.
- A Genre Writing Scheme for the whole school.
- Curricular resources.

Building

To ensure the comfort and safety of staff and students, hand sanitisers have been placed throughout the school. New toilets have also been installed in the Junior Room to maintain the requirement for keeping classes in bubbles.

Our planning consultant have provided the first draft of plans for extension work to the school. This includes a Mainstream Class, ASD Class Base with internal activity area, an external hard and soft play area and associated rooms.

Financial report:

The 2019-2020 financial year ended on 30th August 2020. The treasurer is currently compiling all information required for submission to the Department of Education FSSU

If you have any questions relating to the BOM or the meetings please email office@betns.ie and someone from the BOM will be pleased to respond to you.

Thank you for your support during this unique time and we wish you all well for the coming months.

BETNS BOM