

Board of Management Annual Report June 2021

Board Members

<i>Chairperson:</i>	<i>Bernie Mann</i>
<i>Patron's Nominee:</i>	<i>Fr Fergal Commins</i>
<i>Principal:</i>	<i>Linda Dowling</i>
<i>Teacher Nominee:</i>	<i>Claire Linehan. Lisa Brady</i>
<i>Parent Nominees;</i>	<i>Mary Lowbridge, Frankie O'Reilly</i>
<i>Community Nominees: Imelda Daly (Treasurer)</i>	<i>John Keane</i>

School Ethos

We are an inclusive Catholic Primary School. The religious education programme "Grow in Love" is taught in all classes. Children in 2nd class were prepared for receiving the sacraments of Confession and Communion. The children received the sacrament of First Confession and will receive their First Holy Communion in September in line with government guidelines. The BOM extends thanks to Fr Fergal for supporting staff and pupils during the pandemic.

Building Works / Improvements

An outdoor classroom and an additional garden were created to allow for more outdoor learning activities. Athas 2 will be refurbished and upgraded during the summer months. A building contractor was appointed and the extensive refurbishment is funded by the DES under Emergency Works.

School Policies/Assessment

School Policies were discussed and reviewed by the BoM during the year and included an annual review of the Child Protection and anti Bullying policies. The Response plan, Reopening of school plan and Remote Learning plans were ratified by the BoM. Two lead workers were appointed to oversee Covid guidelines and protocols. School policies can be downloaded from our school website or accessed in the office.

Standardised Tests results and analysis from Literacy and Numeracy tests (May 2021) were presented to the BoM.

School Staff - 21/22

For the school year 21/22 we will have an Admin Principal, 20 mainstream class teachers, 3 special class teachers 9 Special Educational Needs Teachers, 1 EAL

teacher, 17 SNAs, a school secretary, 4 cleaners, 5 bus escorts and a shared caretaker. The Board of Management would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff for all their hard work over the past year during the pandemic especially for the support given to students and families during the lengthy period of school closure and while children were isolating throughout the year.

School Events

School events this year included mini Hallowe'en, Christmas and Easter celebrations held within class bubbles. A pyjama party to celebrate the magic of bedtime stories was held in school. To celebrate our gift of a new library from the Robert Dunbar memorial and Children's Books Ireland we held a pop-up library and fun event in the PE hall. School trips to Lough Boora Heritage Park and Dún na Sí Heritage Park took place in May/June. Play therapy and music therapy was provided for individual pupils and small groups. Second class participated in the Craft Ed project and all classes participated in Music Generation classes.

Thank you to our **Parents Association** for supporting these events despite the restrictions in place this year. Thank you to all the **music, dance and sport instructors** who worked with the children throughout the year both in the school and through remote learning platforms.

Home/School Communication

Parent/Teacher meetings took place remotely in November thanks to the cooperation of teachers and parents. Regular contact was maintained through phone calls, Aladdin Connect, Seesaw and Zoom/Teams calls. Summer Reports were issued in June. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported families during the period of school closure with care packages, house calls and phone calls. The BoM acknowledges the immense amount of goodwill and support shown by parents, staff, Tullamore Resource Centre and school community to St Joseph's NS.

CPD

Teachers and SNAs engaged in CPD courses throughout the year. Courses included tracheostomy training, Literacy, Numeracy, Creative schools and supporting children with ASD.