

Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Ballymote
Board of Management Annual Report

June 2019

Attendance

Attendance rates to date this school year are at 94.36%. This represents an increase for the last two years. Well done to everyone. School attendance is important and children should only really not be at school when they are sick. Remember that all absences should be accounted for in writing. This can be done either through a note to the class teacher or through the online system on the school website. Remember that all late arrivals/early departures need to be recorded in the book outside the office.

School Hours

Parents are reminded that school hours are from 9.20am to 3pm (2pm for infants). The school grounds are open to receive pupils from 9.10am but children should not be on the grounds before this time. When collecting children at 2pm and 3pm, parents should not enter the school grounds until the bell rings. Please remember that smoking is prohibited in the school grounds (including drop off area) and that dogs are not permitted onsite.

Buildings and Maintenance

During the summer, it is hoped to proceed with the internal painting of another section of corridor and a number of rooms. The railings to the front of the school will also be painted. A bicycle rack will be installed to the front of the school to promote cycling to school. There will be safety bollards installed near the exit gate from the playground to the drop off area to try and make that area safer for all. It is also hoped to develop an outdoor reading / relaxation space on the grass area inside the same gate.

Summer Works Scheme

The board has applied to the Department of Education under the Summer Works Scheme 2020 for funding to upgrade our heating system which is now nearly thirty years old.

Clár Scheme

An application was made again this year for funding for measures to alleviate parking difficulties on the Pearse Rd. side of the school. The application was unsuccessful on this occasion, but we will re-apply again in the future.

Standardised Tests

Standardised Tests were recently completed in the school and aggregate scores forwarded to the Department of Education and Skills. Our schools scores in Literacy and Numeracy were generally at or above national norms.

Policy Development

During the year policies were developed, reviewed and ratified in the areas of Attendance, Special Needs, GDPR, Digital Learning, Homework and Job sharing. The board recently also undertook a review checklist of our Child Protection Policy.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is crucial to any school. In the new school year there will be a meeting of parents with a view to electing a new Parents' Association. Parents' views and help are always welcome and we would encourage as many parents as possible to get involved. A strong Parents Association makes for a more vibrant, better school for all.

Staffing

The school will have a permanent teaching staff of 14 next year, supported by 2 Special Needs Assistants.

Slán

We wish our sixth class all the best in their final days of primary school and every success on the next stage of their educational journey. Fr. James will celebrate a Graduation Mass at 11.10am on Thursday 27th June for 6th class in the school. Parents and family members of 6th class pupils are all welcome to attend.