

### **In Attendance**

Class Representatives: Nursery, Reception, YR2, YR3, YR4, YR5, YR6 / Maria Ryan, Hannah Johnson, Eve Fox, Sharon Cooney, Lisa Concannon, Donna Holland, Bridget

Apologies: YR1

St Catherine's School: Nicki Whatley, Maureen Kelly

### AGENDA and MINUTES

#### **1. Welcome Prayer**

#### **2. Discussion of Agenda**

#### **3. School Photograph**

- There was a high demand for the school photograph this year.
- Some Parents and Carers requested to have photograph of children as a class.
- Miss Kelly will speak to teachers to see if can do a picture of children as a class as a memento.

#### **4. Trips**

- Some YR4 students felt they would have liked to have had more school trips.
- Miss Kelly will speak with YR4 teachers to understand what experiences the YR4 teachers had in school and outside of school. It might be that YR4 had more in school experiences and fewer outside due to the restrictions.
- Miss Kelly will come back to YR4 Class Rep with a response to communicate back to the Parents.
- In general, the school has arranged for children to have in school experiences and workshops such as YR6 having the Macbeth workshop to develop cultural capital.

#### **5. New Classes**

- This Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of July it will be communicated to all what classes and with what teachers the Children will be in next year.
- On Thursday the Children will visit the Class and spend time with the teacher they will have next year.

#### **6. Arts Hub**

- The Arts Hub building is expected to open beginning of November.
- There have been delays over the last 3 years.
- All the water and electrics have been fixed. WIFI and internet only came back late on Tuesday.
- The School is hoping to have an official opening later in the Autumn 2021 term with an event dedicating Arts Hub to celebrating the life of remarkable individuals who were part of and currently are in the St Catherine's community.

#### **7. IT Provision**

- The WIFI is being reinstalled in the first week of the school holidays.
- The laptop trolley is due to arrive today.
- This upgrade will enable students to have up to date hardware in computing lessons and strong WIFI.
- The server will need updating. Application is in for the DFE to fund part of the Microsoft 365 update – should hear back in the next 3 weeks.
- Once that funding is approved, an IT consultant will come in to upgrade to Microsoft 365 which should greatly improve IT efficiency.

#### **8. Police visit**

- It took 3 months to arrange visit from the Police.
- There was great feedback from the children from the event. The police had a full day, leaving at 1430 with smiles in their faces and also very tired and in admiration of all the teaching staff.
- The Police visit was important for students of all ages.

- They helped children especially in upper year groups understand what is appropriate online, mobile phone, internet and gaming behaviour and that any offensive language seen in those forums should not be brought back into the school as that could be against the law and in breach of the equalities act.
- The Police were able to engage with the students directly in the playground at lunchtime, see them play and help them with their interactions.
- Younger children enjoyed seeing the police in uniform, with their gadgets and ask them questions, realizing there are grown-ups in the community that look after us all.
- Miss Kelly will keep in touch with Sergeant Aaron and ask him to come in again in the Autumn term.

## 9. Safeguarding

- The School has been made aware that older children are watching an adult cartoon called Rick and Morty on their phones and ipads which is available on Netflix and late at night on mainstream television. This cartoon is advertised on the foresight game.
- Last week children in the playground were using offensive language and mimicking behaviour seen in the programme – this upset other children and shocked the adults.
- Miss Kelly will send a letter to KS2 to make them aware that some of the children have been watching a cartoon that may appear to be for children but is actually for adults using inappropriate language and inappropriate interactions. Children might think its funny because they don't fully understand the implications of humour directed for adults.

## 10. Whatsapp groups

- Miss Kelly has updated the Home School agreement and put in a statement about appropriate use of Parent Whatsapp Groups.
- The purpose of these groups is to be helpful to parents and welcome them into the school.
- If anyone has complaints, targeted criticisms or personal agendas they want to advance they should raise them through the appropriate channels within the school and engage constructively through those platforms. The Whatsapp group is not a platform to voice this and we need to be mindful that other members' mental health might be affected by such messages.
- Miss Kelly commended Class Reps who were able to engage with overly critical messages on the Whatsapp group deftly while protecting the other members of the group.
- One way to engage with any concerning messages and contain it is to say "Look there is enough going on at the moment, lets focus on the positive, maybe this is not the platform for this communication" and guide the concerned individual to the right channels of communication with the school.
- In September Miss Kelly will speak about how to develop constructive strategies to deal with critical and negative Whatsapp messages and channeling feelings in the right directions. There are mechanisms within school where people can deal with those concerns.

## 11. PTA Events

- A big thanks to the PTA for their amazing fund-raising efforts and great school and community events enjoyed by both students, parents and the teaching staff.

### Arts Hub Kitchen

- The online cook-along with Chef Peter had been greatly enjoyed by the children, teaching them wonderful skills and to enjoy themselves while exploring and creating.
- Chef Peter was commended for dedicating his time and Miss Kelly thought it might be a great idea to invite him back to the Arts Hub for a real in person event.
- The Arts hub is getting a new kitchen, with a double fridge and freezer where children can do cooking and be taught about textures, ingredients and the science behind it.

### September Gathering

- Miss Kelly is considering having a community gathering in September – e.g. family picnic.
- A good way to mark a fresh start to the new academic year with opportunity to celebrate that have come out the other side and start new year with a positive community feel.

## 12. After School Club

- Miss Kelly is aware that some parents have found it difficult to just have two pick up times for children. The reason is that due to Covid, the school cannot have parents travelling through the school while children are

in bubbles. These restrictions will continue for the next 2.5 weeks to ensure we can finish the end of term without any shutdowns as have happened with other schools.

- The ASC will continue after school in September with 2 pick up times.
- Miss Kelly is considering, once the Arts Hub is built, to have the ASC in the Arts Hub which has its own independent entrance so that parents can individually pick up children from Mrs Ward at the entrance.
- More will be communicated once the Arts Hub is complete.
- Will continue to be safe in next 2.5 weeks so we don't have to close down.

### **13. Last Day of School Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of July**

- The newsletter will announce that there will be an early Finish 22<sup>nd</sup> July pick up normal school gates as usual (1230 Nursery, (arrangements are made for Nursery children with siblings elsewhere in the school) 1315 for classes who are usually picked up at 3pm and 1330 for classes who are usually picked up at 3:15pm.

### **14. September 2021 Plans**

- Will plan for pre-Covid normal opening hours and come into playground gate and usual finishing times unless told otherwise by the Government.
- Miss Kelly will summarise these plans in an email as a power point.

### **15. Playsuits**

- Some older girls want to wear playsuits instead of the school uniform as they feel more comfortable with it.
- Miss Kelly understood why this could be more practical and will look into reviewing the school uniform policy with the Governors to meet the needs of the children.

### **16. Teaching staff release from class**

- Miss Kelly explained that teachers are entitled by law to have release times out of classroom (e.g. one afternoon a week) and some teachers work part time, so the same teacher will not teach the students 5 days a week.
- Some teachers are leaders in school and will lead a course subject or team of people. Need to be released to lead that subject and monitor it.
- In that case, teachers will run through that day's lesson with the Higher Level Teaching Assistant or the Level 3 Teaching Assistants who are experienced and qualified to deliver lessons.
- Every half term there is a different timetable for teaching staff which includes TA staff as well.
- Miss Kelly will put an explanation in the communication about the staff who are called upon to teach classes when the class teacher is not present.