



Swords Educate Together
National School
Roll Number 20145 O

Board of Management Newsletter

April 2017

Welcome to our SETNS Board of Management Newsletter, April 2017. Its hard to believe we are into the last term of the school year.

The main focus of this newsletter is ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in SETNS. A huge thanks to Cathy Blake (Board Nominee) for all her hard work on ICT, especially the Facebook Policy.

Before we come to ICT here are a few important items...

Come Fly With Us

Our current fundraising activities are for a soft/ astro play area . The cost of this initiative is approximately is €50,000. To date €30,000.00 has been raised and thank you all for contributing towards this.

As you are all aware Our Annual PTA fundraiser this year is "Come Fly with Us" . The PTA , staff and most importantly children are busy preparing for the show. It promises to be a great event. We look forward to seeing you all on the 10th/11th May. All monies raised going towards the soft/ astro play area.

Thanks to the PTA for the hard work that goes into organising this and other fundraising events. Much of their work goes undetected but it very much appreciated.

Skills Database

We would like to develop a skills database to retain in the school and are looking at two categories of Skills,

1. Persons with a trade or qualification that potentially would be needed in the school, ie. Plumbers/ Carpenters/ people with legal, project management/finance expertise . As much as possible we would like to support local businesses whenever we can.
2. Persons with a skill/ interest that could be shared with the children i.e. crafts/ language/music etc

If you are interested in joining this database please drop a businesscard into Catriona or email info@swordseducatetogether.ie

Traffic Management

Traffic flow, parking and the safe drop off of children continues to be a priority for us here in SETNS. We are in the process of updating our traffic management policy and hope to have it ready to circulate before the end of the school year.

In the meantime, please park safely and be considerate of other people and do not park in parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities, on the pedestrian crossings or in the drop off zone. The safety of your children is our priority at all times.

Voluntary Contributions

We introduced online payments for voluntary contributions earlier this year. It has been very successful and has eliminated the security risk associated with holding large amounts of cash on the premises. Thank you all for your continued cooperation and support.

We will be collecting the second instalment of contributions on 26th and 27th April 2017 , details have been sent out over the Easter break.

A reminder that if you make a monthly contribution of €21 it is eligible for tax relief which means the government will give us an extra €14 at no cost to you. You can sign up to a direct debit or standing order.

ICT in SETNS : Update from Cathy

ICT has become an indispensable part of most of our lives. Who doesn't own a smart phone, laptop or a tablet etc.? We all depend on technology at work, socially, and at home and our children are growing up surrounded by technology. At SETNS we want to embrace all of the benefits ICT has to offer while also ensuring our children remain safe and secure online. So how do we use ICT in SETNS?



We have been busy developing a Facebook policy for SETNS over the last few months and will be launching the new SETNS Facebook page over the coming weeks. Much thought and consideration has gone into the development of the policy and once it has been ratified by the Board of Management it will be made available on the school website. Once launched, we anticipate that the Facebook page will become one of our main methods of communication with the wider school community. We aim to post information on the page regularly, with updates on

- Everyday school life
- Dates for your diary
- Sports activities such as GAA, basketball etc
- After school clubs
- PTA events
- Useful information and websites

We also hope to include photos of various activities in SETNS and will be sending home a consent form in the coming weeks asking all parents/guardians whether or not they consent to having their child's photo included on the SETNS Facebook page.



For a number of years SETNS has been using the Aladdin system for school administration, attendance records, communications via email and text, and for management of the school library. Every classroom in SETNS is equipped with a class computer and an interactive whiteboard. The school also has a set of 32 laptops as well as a storage/charging trolley which can be used to move the laptops from one classroom to another. All of this means that technology is integrated into the normal every day activities of our children during their school day. This gives them opportunities to experience and develop skills in the use of technology that will help them make the most of it in adult life.



We are also very much aware of the risks our children face in the online world and strive to find a balance between the benefits and risks. To this end, earlier this year we welcomed Zeeko to SETNS and facilitated a series of workshops for students and a parent information evening on internet safety, cyber bullying and the dangers associated with internet use and social media.



We constantly strive to develop ICT opportunities in SETNS and over the last three years have run Scratch workshops with our 5th class students. Scratch is a visual programming language that makes it easy for young people to create their own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art. Using Scratch allows students to develop creative and critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills as they work on Scratch projects. Our current 5th classes have just finished their Scratch course which was facilitated by parent volunteers from October 2016 until mid April when they were presented with certificates for their participation in the workshops.

Board of Management

Patron Representatives

- *Yvonne Coakley (Chairperson)*
- *Mark Fagan (Building Maintenance)*

Teacher Representatives

- *Karl Breen (Principal)*
- *Fiona McKiernan (Recording Secretary)*

Community Representatives

- *Michael Delaney (Treasurer)*
- *Bryan Campion (Energy/ Environment)*

Parent Representatives

- *Mark Harvey (PTA Nominee/Health and Safety/ Energy)*
- *Cathy Blake (PTA Nominee/ICT)*



Finally, I hope everyone enjoys the last term of the school year. It's always a busy , fun time with school tours, 6th class Gaelteacht trip, Graduation, Mini Marathon and Sports Day. Not to mention our PTA/Whole School Fundraiser "Come Fly with Us".

On behalf of the Board of Management, I wish you a happy and enjoyable end to 2016/17 Academic Year and many thanks for your continued support in making SETNS the wonderful hub of activity and learning it has become.

Yvonne Coakley,

Chairperson, Board of Managent

