

# Cumann na dTuismitheoirí Scoil Aonghusa Scoil Aonghusa Parents' Council

Scoil Aonghusa, Geata an Domhnaigh, Droichead Átha. 041 9832531

Cathaoirleach: Yvonne Walsh, Leas Cathaoirleach: Gillian Burke Faulkner

Runai: Brenda Uí Mhaitiú, E-phoist: tuis.scoilaonghusa@gmail.com

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Cumann na dTuismitheoirí A.G.M.

18ú Deireadh Fómhair 2021

Parents Council A.G.M. 18th October 2021

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## **Miontuairiscí A.G.M. 5ú Mí na Samhna 2020**

### **A.G.M. Minutes 5th November 2020 (via Zoom meeting)**

#### **1. Leithscéalta: Apologies**

#### **2. Fáilte ó Cathairleach: Chairperson's Welcome and Opening - Yvonne Walsh**

Fáilte,

Ba mhaith liom fáilte mhór a chur roimh gach duine anseo anocht chuig Comhdháil na Bliana de Chumann na d'Tuismitheoirí Scoil Aonghusa. Is mise Yvonne Walsh agus is mé an Cathaoirleach.

Tá an-athas orm an oiread daoine a fheiceail ar Zoom anocht!

Bhí chéad leath na bliana an-ghnóthach ag Cumhann na d'Tuismitheoirí ag eagrú imeachtaí agus tiomsú airgid don scoil, ansin dhún an scoil i máirseáil mar gheall ar Covid-19. Pléifimid agus roinnfidimid leat le linn an chruinnithe.

#### **3. Miontuairisc an A.G.M. deireanach: Minutes of last A.G.M.**

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were placed on the school website.

#### **4. Aitheasc an Phríomhoide: Principal's Address - Edel Ní Bhroin**

Dia dhaoibh ar fad agus céad fáilte rómhaibh. I Mí na Samhna we remember in a special way our loved ones who have gone before us. Tonight we remember in a very special way the family of Gillian, Leas Cathaoirleach. We extend heartfelt condolences to Gillian and her family tonight.

Paidir.

What a difference twelve months has made since we last gathered for our Comhdháil na Bliana. The Covid Experience has reminded us of the important role and significant part our school has in the life of our children, their families and staff. It has highlighted the goodwill and exceptional cooperation that very much makes up the fabric of our school culture and creates the caring school community that we enjoy and the children benefit from.

In the current world of uncertainty, it is our hope that Scoil Aonghusa remains a place of certainty for the children, where children and their parents have the peace of mind that Scoil Aonghusa is a safe place, where the children receive a top-class educational experience.

Tonight, we acknowledge the cooperation and dedication of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí, the whole parent body, Bord Bainistíochta na scoile, the teaching staff, Joni our Special Needs Assistant, Lisa our cleaner, Deirdre our secretary and our VIP's- Páistí na scoile.

As I often say the AGM be it via Zoom or in the halla is an acknowledgement and recognition of all that is good and great about our school.

Tonight, I sincerely thank Cumann na dTuismitheoirí, Yvonne - Cathaoirleach, Gillian - Leas Cathaoirleach, Susan,- Cisteoir, Brenda - Rúnaí and all the committee members for all their work and the important part they play in making a significant difference in the life of the children by enhancing their learning experience.

Due to the hard work of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí and the generosity of parents we can now boast a full suite of 27 chromebooks and a storage trolley.

Due to the advice and input of parents we have school policies that are fit for purpose.

Due to the kindness and the shared sense of community of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí our children have happy memories and stories to tell of Pancake Tuesday, Christmas Storytelling in the halla, ice-cream van visits and newly published books in the library.

In the coming weeks we look forward to Science Week, the arrival of our new awning which will create an outdoor space for the children, the launch of the girls' new football kit, Mindfulness Tuesday, continue with our focus on physical activity and wellbeing and review of the school uniform.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

## **5. Tuairisc Bhord Bainistíochta: Board of Management Chairperson's Address - Séamus Finnegan**

Dia dhaoibh go léir, I would like to thank Cumann na dTuismitheoirí for the opportunity to address the AGM tonight – Cumann na dTuismitheoirí plays a vital role in assisting and supporting the Board of Management in carrying out one of its core functions which is to uphold the characteristic Catholic ethos of the school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Armagh, whereby the school's teachings are based on the morals of the Catholic Church. This ethos is also further defined and enhanced by the use and promotion of the Irish language as the primary medium of instruction and day-to-day communication and relating with each other in the school. When we look at the school website it is clearly stated that “We are a community of teachers, students and parents that strive to achieve the best results by working hand in hand with each other for the benefit of the pupils in our care. Above all else, we want our pupils to be happy and safe as they grow and learn.” While terms like ethos and characteristic spirit are often nebulous and hard to define, the ongoing work of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí (as evidenced for example from the minutes of last year's AGM which outlined the activities undertaken on behalf of and in support of the students in the school) provides a more than ample articulation of what the defining spirit of Scoil Aonghusa means in the daily life of the school. On behalf of the Board of Management, and by extension on behalf of the Patron, I would like to express a huge thanks to Cumann na dTuismitheoirí for your commitment to the ethos of the school and making it a genuinely fulfilling and stimulating lived experience. Despite the huge obstacles presented by the pandemic we will hear in tonight's reports and discussions about the ongoing work of Cumann na dTuismitheoirí since last year's AGM and I look forward to hearing about these, I know that the work and the activities have been somewhat curtailed but I also know that your interest, enthusiasm and commitment to supporting and enhancing the educational experience for all the students has been undiminished. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

It is my honour to chair the Board of Management for its current term which began on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and will expire on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. My relationship with the school stems from the fact that our three children attended Scoil Aonghusa between around 1995 and 2009. As you know, the Board is comprised of two representatives of the Patron, myself and Canon Eugene, two representatives from the community, John Halpin and Tara Walker, from the school the Príomhoide Edel and Múinteoir Mairead, and two representatives from the parents, Liam Harbison (who will address you a little later) and Olivia Kierans. The Board is constituted under the terms of The Education Act 1998 and its role is determined by the Governance Manual for Primary Schools, 2019 – 2023 published by the Department of Education and Skills. The foreword of this manual provides the Board with a guiding principle for all its work, viz. “The primary goal of a board of management is to ensure that the school is managed in a manner that provides all of its pupils with the best possible education.” As well as this document, which provides the Board with instructions and guidelines on carrying out its role and responsibilities, the Board is also supported and guided by the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association (CPSMA). In addition to circulars from the Department of Education and Skills we also draw on support from various representative bodies, the Diocesan Education Secretary and the Diocesan Advisor for Primary Religious Education. The Board, like

yourselves on Cumann na dTuismitheoirí, is comprised of people who voluntarily give of their time, energy and expertise to ensure the school is managed and supported in its work of educating our young people and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board for their contributions. Because of the pandemic a lot of the work of the Board since last March has focused on dealing with the closure of the school and supporting the Príomhoide and the Múinteoirí in reopening and keeping the school opened since the beginning of the new school year (for example the Covid-19 Statement and Response Plan) but there has also been a lot of work in terms of reviewing various policies such as the Risk (Health & Safety) Assessment, the Anti-Bullying Policy, The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment, the Acceptable Use Policy, the Critical Incident Policy, the Data Protection Policy, the Admissions Policy and the School Self-Evaluation Report. The Board has a schedule of meetings drawn up for the school year and, in addition to the meeting which has already taken place on 21<sup>st</sup> September last we are also scheduled to meet on November 16<sup>th</sup>, January 25<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Before I finish I would like to particularly note the gratitude of the Board to Múinteoir Edel, Múinteoir Mairead and all the teaching, learning support and ancillary staff who have worked so tirelessly since the start of the current “new normal” to ensure that the school continued to provide the children with the care and attention they needed to get through this hugely challenging time – I remember walking up to the gates of the school on March 12<sup>th</sup> last as the children were leaving with as many books and bags as they could carry and many, especially the little ones, clearly upset and distressed by what was unfolding before them with little or no understanding of what was to come. In conversation with Edel a little later it quickly became clear to me that she and the rest of the staff were determined to make the best of the situation and to ensure that, as far as possible, every child was going to continue their education not only in terms of the academic curriculum but also in terms of the care and nurturing of the individual. This goal was realised in spades, with the arrangements for the final farewell to the students of Rang 6 being an outstanding example. Over the period of closure and the summer months I was in awe of the time and effort expended by every member of the school community – I know for a fact (and despite my urgings to her to take a rest) that Edel had no break to speak of over the summer months and she deserves all our thanks for making sure we returned to a safe and a welcoming environment in September.

I would like to conclude by reiterating the Board’s gratitude to Cumann na dTuismitheoirí for all your work and for providing me, and by extension, the Board of Management, with this opportunity to talk to you. I would like to wish Cumann na dTuismitheoirí every success in the year to come in all the work it does on behalf of the school community.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

## **6. Tuairisc Cisteoir Bhord Bainistíochta: Board of Management Treasurer's Report - Liam Harbison**

Dia dhaoibh gach duine, it is a pleasure to address you this evening. Myself and Olivia are the parents nominees to the new Board. We cover the 2 roles of treasurer and health and safety. It has been a team effort amongst the Board members during the last year. There has been a lot of work in the background and I would like to pay tribute to Séamus and Edel.

Our financial year is from September to August. The Financial Report is as follows (presentation below), and this gives a picture of our financial position at the end of the financial year just ended. On the income side our primary income source is Department of Education grants. This figure is inflated because the grant for this school year was received 4 months early in order to prepare for the school re-opening post Covid. That figure would normally be in the region of €80,000. The Cumann na dTuismitheoirí donation figure is down from previous years, obviously due to Covid and the inability to raise funds. We are hugely grateful for the support we have received. The Way2Pay and parents payments are to cover educational activities and the school book scheme. As Way2Pay came in to effect during the year, this will solely be Way2Pay in future years. The total income was €150,970.58. The excess income over expenditure is €17,485.25, this is primarily made up of the Dept grants received. On the expenditure side there is a piece there around expenditure out to the Credit Union account. We have a small monthly standing order. This is in case of emergency and if finances are depleted in any way we can access some short term loan facilities. We generally pay in €3,000 per year.

Dept of Education grants. The Minor Works Grant and Enhanced Covid Element was received in July. We also received an additional Cleaning Grant and PPE/Sanitiser Grant for term 1. These were extremely well received. We are hopeful to get further cleaning and sanitiser grants for term 2 and further on. The grants have allowed us to push things on and the new school awning will be in place next week. The thought process behind this, was that the grant had to be used on Covid related works and we wanted to future proof the benefit of such a once off grant. Hence, the addition of a covered activity area in the school yard.

The cash position looks positive. In reality I would say that our cash position is close to zero on the basis of the €11,000 to €12,000 per month to run the school. The current account is healthy, the grant account is healthy. We do have a parents donation account. A number of years ago parents were given the option to submit direct debit or standing order contributions to the school. 4 to 5 families pay in a monthly contribution. Our total cash contribution is just over €70,000. We are in a solid position rather than a really good position or a poor position. Things are extremely tight, but Edel and her team run a lean operation in terms of managing expenditure in the school. I would mention that a major financial event would be detrimental to our ability going forward, so we need to keep a close eye on our finances. We wouldn't survive without the €10,000 to €15,000 support received from Cumann na dTuismitheoirí on an annual basis.

This concludes the report of the Cisteoir. Go raibh maith agaibh.



# SCOIL AONGHUSA BOM

FINANCIAL REPORT TO AGM OF CUMANN NA DTUISMITHEOIRÍ

5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C 2019/2020

Income & Expenditure Accounts to end of financial year 31/08/2020  
 [Note: Taken from Current A/C transactions Only]

Income	€	Expenditure	€
Credit Union	€ -	Ancillary Staff	€ 32,128.01
Dept Grants	€ 108,866.50	Water Charges	€ 1,890.02
Cumann na dTuismitheoiri Donations	€ 7,500.00	Insurance	€ 5,680.49
Ret Cheque / Refunds	€ 635.25	Cleaning Exp & Waste	€ 2,729.58
Way2Pay/Parents Payments	€ 31,188.83	Classroom Equip & Furniture	€ 999.89
Donations	€ 850.00	Light	€ 8,094.37
Use of School Premises	€ 730.00	Heat	€ 8,243.95
Loan Repayment	€ 1,200.00	Repairs & Renewals	€ 1,447.44
		Printing, Postage & Stationery	€ 6,766.83
		Telephone	€ 2,951.14
		IT & Internet	€ 18,465.52
		Security	€ 593.55
		Travel	€ 1,770.00
		Recruitment & Interview Exp	€ 615.00
		External Accountancy Fees/Audit	€ 1,230.00
		Bank Interest & Charges	€ 1,610.88
		Educational Activities	€ 12,580.59
		Revenue	€ 7,049.42
		Credit Union	€ 3,600.00
		Cumann na dTuismitheoiri (W2Pay Transfers)*	€ 7,410.00
		Sundries **	€ 4,232.60
		Covid Expenses	€ 2,196.05
		Loan	€ 1,200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€ 150,970.58</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 133,485.33</b>
<b>Excess Income Over Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 17,485.25</b>		

### POINTS TO NOTE:

- Grant Income for 2020/2021 Included
- Inc. over Exp. of €17,485
- W2P came in during the year
- C na dThuis donation down approx. 50% this year
- Credit Union balance not transferred to Current a/c this year

## DEPT. OF EDUC GRANTS (RECEIVED JULY/AUG)

- Minor Works Grant & Enhanced Covid Element - €18,437
- Cleaning Grant - €4,508 (€21 per pupil for Term 1)
- PPE/Sanitiser Grant - €5,025 (€25 per pupil for Term 1)

## CASH AT BANK 31/08/2020

• Current a/c	€30,832
• Grant a/c	€35,236
• Parents Donation a/c	€2,113
• Credit Union a/c	€2,714
• <b>Total Cash</b>	<b>€70,894</b>
• Way to Pay a/c	€19,865

## **7. Tuairisc Cisteoir Cumann na dTuismitheoirí: Parents Council Treasurers report - Susan Carr**

Dia dhaoibh gach duine. I'm Susan Carr, Cisteoir. I have 3 children, 2 remaining in the school. This is my 3rd year just finished as Cisteoir.

Please find attached the accounts for the Parents Council for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

The accounts are split into two Income & Expenditure accounts, one for the current account and one for the Book Scheme. Funds collected annually from parents for Readers and Rentals are kept separate in the Book scheme account.

Income is generated from four main events:

Pupil Insurance €1,221 – The Council get a reduction for collecting and compiling all the forms for the Insurers and submitting the application online. If parents were to obtain insurance privately, they would not get this reduction.

Christmas Raffle €5,775 – The team of volunteers did excellent work getting sponsorship of prizes for the annual raffle.

Flag Day €1,138 – This is done on a Friday in February and while it is a good source of income, it takes many volunteers to cover the main collection points which has proved difficult in recent years. We really do need as much support as possible to maximise the funds we take in.

Book scheme €1,851 admin fee - Profit is made from the administration fee. Funds collected for Rental and Readers are transferred to the Book scheme account to replenish books for class and the library as required. The publishers then issue a discount to the school which is only available directly to the school via a bulk order. If parents were to source their own books, they would not be paying any more than what is charged on the order form.

Expenditure:

€7,500 was transferred to the Board of Management during the year. The committee also paid for its annual membership fee to the National Parents council and for Insurance for the Parents council. Due to COVID-19, many of our normal activities were cancelled including our normal celebrations at the school to mark First Communion. The funds transferred to the Board of management were used in part to buy a set of Chrome books for the children to use. The council purchased a Trolley to facilitate the safe storage and charging of the equipment. The council are committed to funding another set of the Chromebooks in the coming weeks so that students will not have to share due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Total income was €14,968.35 and total expenditure was €10,410.63 for the year giving a gain for the year of €4,557.72. The opening balance in the bank account at the start of the year was €11,866 and the closing balance was €16,423. This balance is predominantly held in 2 bank accounts with PTSB totalling €16,185 and €238 only held in cash. The use of Way2Pay has proved hugely successful and has resolved a security issue of handling large amounts of cash in June and December.

This concludes the report of the Cisteoir. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Income & Expenditure Year end 31st August 2021				
		Current account	Book scheme	Total
Opening Balance	€	4,946.59	€ 11,477.46	€ 16,424.05
<b>Summary Income 2020/2021</b>				
Pupil Insurance	€	1,035.00		
Other receipts - Tesco	€	500.00		
Xmas raffle - credit union	€	200.00		
Xmas raffle proceeds	€	3,700.00		
Fees refund	€	52.19		
Bookscheme 2020/2021				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>5,487.19</b>	<b>€ -</b>	<b>€ 5,487.19</b>
<b>Summary Expenses 2020/2021</b>				
National Parents council	-€	93.75		
Arachas - PC Insurance	-€	215.00		
cards	-€	4.98		
One for all - communion	-€	32.00		
cash - Church contribution 2 masses	-€	50.00		
flowers - communion	-€	60.00		
Allianz pupil Insurance	-€	828.00		
Communion booklet = RPD	-€	72.00		
Flowers	-€	58.00		
icecram van	-€	150.00		
12 Chromebooks	-€	3,542.88		
Flowers	-€	30.00		
Flowers	-€	55.00		
Opening Minds	-€	223.10		
Expenses Raffle - Duffy's	-€	150.00		
Mucky Duck Food supplies	-€	42.00		
Raffle supplies	-€	15.00		
Early Readers			-€ 1,101.10	
Bookhaven	€	-	-€ 185.42	
	€	-		
BOM - Treats for children Easter	-€	128.45		
BOM - 6th class Hoodies etc	-€	582.00		
Fainne	-€	151.00		
Communion expenses				
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-€</b>	<b>6,483.16</b>	<b>-€ 1,286.52</b>	<b>-€ 7,769.68</b>
<b>Profit / (Loss) for the Year</b>	<b>-€</b>	<b>995.97</b>	<b>-€ 1,286.52</b>	<b>-€ 2,282.49</b>
<b>Closing Cash Position @ 31/08/2021</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>3,950.62</b>	<b>€ 10,190.94</b>	<b>€ 14,141.56</b>
<b>Reconciled to bank statements 31/08/2021</b>				
bank statement Balances current				11,070
bank statement Balances deposit				2,834
Held in Cash				238
Closing balance as 31st August 2021				<u>14,142</u>

## **8. Aitheasc an Cathaoirligh: Chairperson's Address - Yvonne Walsh**

I have two daughters in the school in Rang a dó and naíonáin sóisear.

Last year was my second year as Chairperson of the Parents Council, and what a year it has been! We are a relatively new family to the school just like some of you here tonight may be attending an AGM for the first time. Attending parents' council meetings helps parents meet other parents from your child's class and to hear more about the school community and understand what a vital part the Parents Council plays in the school community.

The Parents Council typically meets once a month. We have already met virtually for the first time in October. The first scheduled meeting was later in the year than normal, it was decided that getting children back to school safely and the new routines under the current circumstances took priority. Future dates for virtual meetings will be posted on the school website.

The Officers of the Council consists of myself as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Gillian Burke Faulkner, Treasurer Susan Carr, Secretary Brenda Matthews and the National Parents Council Representative, Sinead Townsend, and other committee members.

Both the Treasurer and Sectary officer positions are open for nominations tonight as both Susan and Brenda have completed 3+ years in their respective roles. If anyone would like to nominate themselves for any of the roles, please contact the school office.

There are also two parents nominated by parents who serve on the Board of Management, Liam Harbison, and Olivia Kierans, who were voted onto the Board earlier this year. What a year to be elected to the Board of Management, a year with incredibly significant changes to be implemented before the start of the new school term in September!

I would like to sincerely thank the previous parents' representatives on the Board of Management Olivia Shiels and Joe McArdle who served on the Board of Management for a number of years and also Rhona Kelly who was the Chairperson of the Board of Management for many years.

In the school we pride ourselves on our sense of community, the school being the Board of Management, the Parents Council, the children, and every parent/guardian in the school, even grandparents are included! One of the standout moments for me last year was the fantastic success of the annual Christmas raffle and helping and attending Scoil Aonghusa's famous Pancake day!

The Parents Council works hard to fundraise for the school. If we want our children to have anything extra and for the school to run as well as it does, funds need to be raised by the Parents Council. All money we raise all goes back directly into the school. We transfer funds twice a year, as per best practice, to the school. We vote as a Committee what we would like the money raised to be spent on. It is always for the good of the children!

The annual Christmas raffle is our biggest fundraiser. We handed out letters to all local businesses surrounding the school looking for prize donations for the raffle. A letter was also sent out to parents asking for donations for the raffle. We organised raffle cards to be printed.

The day of the raffle there is great excitement in the school and the anticipation on who will win the 1<sup>st</sup> prize!

1<sup>st</sup> prize were two premium Manchester United seats which were donated kindly by a family in the school. Last year we raised €5,775 in the Christmas raffle which was amazing!

We decided as a committee that the money raised by the Christmas Raffle would be spent on technology for the school. The school purchased a set of Chromebooks and training from some of the money transferred in January. The Parents Council directly bought a Chromebook trolley which stores and charges the Chromebooks.

We also have a permit for an annual flag day, the third Friday in February. It is not clear yet under current restrictions if we will be able to hold a flag day next year on Friday February 19th, 2021. This year we had lots of families and pupils who volunteered an hour or so to collect on behalf of the school. It was so good to see so many pupils helping out on the day, the excitement of emptying the collection boxes into the counting machine! We raised a fantastic €1,138 which was a fantastic amount to raise as the weather was so wet!

The Parents Council also help to organise events for the children, which are always lots of fun!

In October the school held a Halloween themed story telling event in the leabharlann for Junior and Senior infants and on the success of that it was arranged to have a Christmas story telling event in the hall for these classes.

The children arrived at the school dressed in their PJ's full of excitement! Even some parents came in their PJ's to partake in the fun! We had a fireplace backdrop and a huge blow up Santa, his reindeer and snowman, which the children had great fun with.

After the Christmas story told by Muinteoir Catriona, every child got a hot chocolate and a cookie to enjoy then some Christmas carol singing as Gaeilge!

In February we had Pancake day! It is the most fantastic day in the school. If there is any day that you can take time off to attend an event in the school, it is Pancake Tuesday. There is so much joy in the children's faces. The smell of pancakes lingers in the halla for days! I would like to sincerely thank Breda Divine and all the parents who supplied batter, pancakes, and on the day cooked and served up what can only be described as a Pancake feast. This year's Pancake day was the last Pancake day for many of the helpers as their children were in 6<sup>th</sup> class. This was the last event in the school prior to the closure so looking back it was lovely that this class group got to share this experience and to take some class photos! It is doubtful if Pancake day will be held next year.

This year the school was due to have 1<sup>st</sup> Communion on May 23<sup>rd</sup> which was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. To mark this day Múinteoir Edel arranged for some special gifts to be sent out to everyone in the class and there was a virtual ceremony held in St Peter's to mark the day. 1<sup>st</sup> confession was due to be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> which also had to be cancelled. 1<sup>st</sup> Communion finally got to go ahead on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, this year the usual cupán tae in the halla could not take place after the ceremony. Usually the Parents Council

organise sandwiches, cakes and biscuits for all families and extended families to enjoy. Hopefully, the cupán tae will be back in the future!

We usually bought cakes from Coulter and Black with each child's name listed on the cake. The tradition is that each child receives a slice of the cake with their name on it the first school day after the ceremony is held. This year this tradition was altered slightly, each child received an individual cupcake with their name on it!

It was unfortunate that this year the Parents Council could not organise a group class photo. Several photos of pupils and their families were printed in the Drogheda Leader.

In June it was time to organise the book scheme. This is a huge benefit to families and takes away the need to source and purchase books during the summer holidays! But of course, this year the book scheme had to be organised differently! Each family opted into the book scheme by paying a €1 deposit through Way2pay then received their book list via e-mail and parents then advised the school which books they did not require purchased. The school's electronic payment and accounting application, Way2Pay was used for parents to pay for their book order. This removed all the risk of handling and collecting large sums of money and made the tracking and accounting of payments so streamlined and efficient. This was the ideal solution for today's virtual world!

The Parents Council supply all the other books and readers to rent for a small annual fee which saves expense on the back to school bill.

All the books when they arrived from Book Haven to the school were then individually labelled, grouped into classes and stored in the leabharlann for the start of the new year. A quite different process to previous years but overall, it worked very well!

A review of all returned rental books was also completed and many classes maths books were replaced. Funds specifically for books are kept in a separate account and are available for the school to upgrade or purchase books for the library and are available if there are updates to the curriculum.

At the end of the day, everything we do as a Parents Council is for the children. The more involved you are in the Council the more the children get out of it. The more they see you helping around the school the more joy they get out of it. They understand the value of the time you put into the school.

It is hard work at times but extremely rewarding! We always welcome new members for the Parents Council. If you would like to get involved this year, please let the Deirdre or Múinteoir Edel know and they will put you in touch with members of the Parents Council Committee. There is also a helpers list if you are able to help at some events which we may get to organise this year.

It would be great to have representatives from each class on the Parents Council. Reminders for the virtual meetings will be sent prior to the meeting. If you have some ideas you might like to come to the school with, come to the Council and we can engage with the school.

Múinteoir Edel comes to all our meetings and we engage together to come up with new ideas and different ways to raise funds and plan events. This is so prevalent now as everything we do needs to be planned in line with Covid-19 regulations.

Also thank you the Board of Management, especially the parent's representatives Liam and Olivia, you both had a quite a challenging start to your tenure on the Board of Management but you both excelled! To our Vice Chairperson Gillian, our treasurer Susan and Secretary Brenda and Deirdre the school secretary, go raibh míle míle maith agaibh!

Finally, a huge, big thank you to everyone currently on the Parents Council Committee and all who helped at the events and activities and helped us fund raise throughout the year. Without your help we would not be able to achieve as much as we do!

Thank you all so much for dialling in tonight and thank you to Edel, it has been great working with you all last year!

Táimid anseo le chéile. Slán agus beannacht.

## **9. Aon Gnó Eile: A.O.B**

Susan Carr - can we confirm, for anyone who is interested in joining the Parents' Council, how they go about it? Yvonne confirmed anyone who is interested should email the school office. All the invites to future Council meeting will be sent out by the school. Council meeting dates and the schedule of Council events will be circulated by the school.