

## **Board of Management Agreed Report 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The start of the new school year has been a very busy one. The first phase of the work of school-based therapists began in late August. The local disability network team (Carrigaline-Kinsale-Bandon) delivered whole staff training on our return and has carried out a series of individual and class consultations with teachers throughout the first term. The Board is pleased that this important work has begun but is keen that the level of service be increased so more individual students might benefit.

The Board also formally adopted the school plan for 2023-24 which outlines specific areas for improvement. This and other revised school policies will be on the school website shortly.

All staff completed their refresher training in CPI Safety Interventions. The Board takes very seriously the issue of staff and student safety, health and wellbeing and the school's response to behaviours of concern.

Individual teachers have also completed other training, including important recognised Autism-specific programmes such as Floortime.

This year will also see the introduction of a new Primary Maths Curriculum and staff will be engaged in planning for its implementation in 2024.

A comprehensive whole school PE Programme is up and running this term, as the school pursues the Active Schools Flag through work with Special Olympics Ireland and the Junior Athlete Programme. Classes are completing daily active break challenges. To further support this, the Parents' Association fund-raising efforts came to fruition with the installation of climbing equipment in the hall and play areas.

The Board acknowledged the many guests we have accommodated this term. The highlight was a visit by An Tánaiste Micheál Martin. The school also hosted staff from the new Cork ETB special school in Carrigtwohill and its principal Mary Lyons, who has worked closely with the school previously. Teachers and SNAs from Carrigtwohill shadowed our classes, learned from our experiences and spoke very highly of the standard we have set. ETBI have also visited our school as they look to our staff's expertise in developing the patron's ethical programme "Goodness Me Goodness You" for other special classes and schools. The school also facilitated the HSE in hosting CAMHS and Flu Vaccine Clinics.

Over the summer major repairs were completed to our caretaker's cabin and the gas boiler. There was very minor damage caused by the severe weather events over the past few weeks however disruption was kept to a minimum.

This was the last meeting of the current Board and the Board members are to be thanked for giving so generously of their own time to support the governance of the school.