

Second term meeting of the Primary School Council 2018/2019

17/01/2019 18h00-19h45

- Chair: Jérôme Bel (headmaster)
 - Parents: (PS) Maebh Whelan, (PS/MS) Jeremy Gueguen, (MS-GS-SK) Marlène Boutier, (MS-GS-AN) Mohamed Oubaha (MS-GS-SP) Stéphanie Vitols, (CE1-SC) Aurelie Boyer, (CP-CE2) Edel Michelin and Christelle Cuq, (CM1) Christian Klepper, (CM2) Itziar Lopez de Heredia and Edel Michelin
- Teachers and assistants: Emmanuelle Lièvre, Sophie Ryan, Salma Khattab, Stéphanie Pouleau, Aurélia Neau, Blandine Farrugia, Hélène Bertin, Caroline Motte, Béatrice Cayet-Fernandez, Beth O'Donnell, Frances Caffrey, Stéphanie Adamson and Hélène O'Meara
- Observers: Fiona McElree(administration)
- Excuses: Fournier Dulac (IEN), Nicolas Bourgeois (principal), Sophie Cronin, Valérie Molette, Pierre Benech and Thierry Rossignol (teachers), Ludovic Degraeve (parent representative)
- Minutes: Stéphanie Vitols (parent) and Aurélia Neau (teacher).
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I. A first assessment of the current year

a. Health and safety

- **Fire drill:**

First fire drill took place: 16/01/19 Building cleared in 2'50" – Nothing to report

- **Lock-down exercise:**

*This is a training exercise for an event such as a weather emergency or an intruder.

Obligatory once a year. It will take place during March/April. Information will be sent to parents in advance. The school wants this obligatory exercise to be as fully prepared as possible so that it is not a negative experience for the pupils (preparation at the teachers' council) The exercise will be of short duration (about five to ten minutes) and will be presented as a 'game'.

- **Medical examinations:**

There will be a medical visit during the year for MS and new pupils: sight and hearing tests. MS vaccinations are also planned during the year (3rd term).

- **Cooperation with the Gardai in Deansgrange :** Garda Schools Programme:

A number of visits by a guard are planned for the CM2 (different themes). The garda responsible for these visits (on sick leave for a number of months) has been replaced. There will shortly be a visit to CM2. A number of themes will be touched on: fireworks, dangerous games, danger on the roads...

- **Work carried out recently:**

- * Speakers installed in the building:

- Bell (beginning and end of classes)
- 'Lock-down' alarm
- Communication with classes

- * Installation of a security system on the main gate (camera, fob swipe, interphone...) The same system has been installed in Hollypark Girls.

Families will be given details by e-mail shortly.

- **Projects undertaken in class**

Non-exhaustive list: educational use of new technology, gaelic football, Maths Week, Kangourou des maths, Green School, les Incorruptibles, La Fabrique Illustrée, café philo, the 10 Golden Rules...

With regard to the 10 Golden Rules, the month of December was all about inclusion. As part of this, a 'buddy bench' was put in place in the yard. The principle is simple: pupils who feel lonely during break time can sit down on the 'buddy bench'. This is a signal to the others that they're looking for someone to play with.

- **Parent Association (APE) Actions**

The APE is a valued partner of Lycée Français d'Irlande. All parents of primary and secondary school pupils are automatically members. Liza Moulin is the new president.

Current / recent activities: Father Christmas (December), Galette des Rois (January), lotto/bingo (March)... The educational garden was funded by the APE.

II. Short-term activity plans:

- **School outings etc**

- September to June: Gaelic football (CP to CM2)
- 15/01: National Concert Hall (CP to CMw)
- From 11th to 15th March: Maths Week (from CP to CMw)
- 02/05: Glenroe Farm: PS/MS and MS/GS AN
- 16th and 17th May: Visit to W5 in Belfast + Carlingford (CM2 and 6ème)
- 25/05: School -> Kermesse

Will there be information meetings about the transition to secondary school: syllabus, curriculum, Junior Cert/brevet, Leaving Cert/bac...?

When will the children go to Clonskeagh to get to know the building and their teachers?

- There is a primary school-junior cycle meeting two or three times a year (CM1-CM2 and sixth class teachers). A visit to the secondary school by the CM2s is planned for the end of March.
- An information meeting about the secondary school (for the primary school parents): will take place in February

What's happening about the trip to Belfast? Is it still on?

YES. A file has been drawn up and the trip will be voted on at the School Council meeting on 23/01.

Will mindfulness sessions be organised this year?

NO. There were sessions the last two years. The teachers have been 'trained' and can now lead sessions if necessary.

III. Direction for the school year 2019-2020:

• School structure

We are looking at 13 classes: five infant classes and eight junior classes and about 300 pupils. The allocation to classes will be done at the teachers council based on numbers.

The class (CM1-CM2) is already pretty big: will more pupils be arriving?

Every year we have a number of departures and a number of arrivals in the course of the school year. New enrolments are decided case by case. There will be a few arrivals in March 2019 (PS, GS, CE1). The teachers concerned have been informed. We respect as far as possible a maximum close to 24 pupils per infant class, 25 in CP/CE1/CE2 and 26/27 in CM.

Can the school communicate clearly to the parents (and not to the children) the number of places in 6th class and the number of children who wish to go there?

The school administration is currently preparing for the school year 2019-2020. It is still too early to answer that question accurately. We are still waiting for a number of answers from families regarding whether or not they will remain in LFI next year.

• The school calendar

How many days is the school open for instruction?

Why can the school year not finish later by, for example, increasing the length of the holidays at Halloween or in February to two weeks, as is the case in France.

Exceptionally this year, the school is putting two calendars to the vote.

These two proposals arise from the remarks of some of the teachers:

- The particularly high number of weeks worked between the start of the school year and the Christmas holidays (16 weeks with one week off in the middle).
- The 'marathon' day given over to the parent-teacher meetings.

Mr Bourgeois and Mr Bel are therefore proposing a 2nd calendar to try to answer the problems mentioned above.

However, the school calendar chosen must respect the following constraints:

- The school holidays must be identical to those of the Irish schools.
- French regulations oblige a maximum of 36 weeks' school (between 864 and 936 hours' teaching). The proposal made to the Primary School Council is for 176 days' teaching (917 hours).
- By derogation, the teaching week is 26 hours maximum (*in practice here 26 hours 10 minutes*).
- One day with no class to make up for the extra 10 minutes worked (to stagger the end of class with Hollypark) multiplied by 36 weeks = six hours a year.
- Two preparatory days for the teachers planned before the start of the year (26th and 27th August).
- Two Wednesdays given over to report handovers (December and June)

PROPOSAL N*1:

- No report handovers on Wednesday morning
- Report handover at another time during the week
 - * During two afternoons during the week (1pm to 3pm on Wednesday)

* A number of teachers in the same room (lack of space available because of the presence of children in after-school care and activities)

- The two Wednesdays normally given over to the report handover will be normal school days.
- One day OFF on the Friday before half-term during the first term to make up the extra 10 minutes.
- A second day OFF (the Thursday) before the same holidays instead of the two Wednesday mornings worked.

PROPOSAL N*2:

- Report handovers to parents during two Wednesdays (November and June)
- These two Wednesdays given over to report handovers will not be school days
- One day OFF the Friday before half-term in the first term to make up the extra 10 minutes worked.

WHO CAN VOTE?

- **ELECTED** parent representatives -> maximum one per class. This school year there are eight **elected** parent representatives
- The teachers in the school
- The headmaster

In a vote by secret ballot, the first proposal got five votes and the second proposal got 13 votes.

It was recalled that the calendar will be finalised on 23/01 at the School Council meeting.

So, with regard to the primary school, the school year should start on 28th August 2019 and finish on 12th June 2020.

The school will be closed on Friday 25th October 2019.

The calendar will be accessible to parents after the vote at the 2nd meeting of the School Council (website).

Parents' and teachers' questions regarding lunch and after-school care

Would it be possible have a quiet time during after-school care so that the children can do their homework?

Reminder:

- There is supervised study four days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
- It is difficult to recruit additional staff
- We have to respect the ratio of one adult to 15 pupils

Nevertheless:

- Laura Panier has been supervising a quiet time in the library since 17/01/19. She takes 15 pupils (no enrolment – first come, first served). Every Thursday from 3pm to 4pm.

Some pupils say they are rushed to finish their lunch for 'logistical' reasons. How can we make sure all children have the time to finish their lunch at their own pace?

In CP-CE1, there are two lunch supervisors. From CE2 on, there is one supervisor per class. From CE2 on, at 12.40-12.45, the supervisors (and therefore the pupils) must go to the yard.

In CP-CE1, at 12.40-12.45, one supervisor goes out with the pupils who have finished and the other stays to clean the classroom with the other children.

-> It would be possible to suggest to the pupils of CE2-CM2 who have not finished their lunch that they join a CP-CE1 class.

Would a canteen be possible?

- It is not possible to put in place a (two) food service(s).
 - Price of lunch (about €5 x 176 days = €880)
 - Only a few families have requested
 - Organisation (two services) / maintaining the cold / hot chain / allergies / internal logistics...
- Alternative: each family takes it in turn to prepare lunch for all pupils in the class (once every 25 days)!

Does the garderie run proper activities or is it only free time for the children?

There are about 15 activities offered during the week (sporting and cultural)

The supervisory staff are not required to do animation. They are just required to supervise the pupils. Moreover, there are games available to the children (inside and outside).

Parents' and teachers' questions regarding school life

Support classes in English for beginner?

There are currently groups at different levels in CE2, CM1 and CM2 as needed.

We had a visit from a consultant in English teaching who recommended that we integrate the pupils at different levels in the same class.

The pupils' language profile is assessed at the start of the school year by the English teachers.

How do the teachers approach gender during courses? And the rest of the school staff? (e.g. Shoebox Appeal for boys and girls last December)

The pupils are not directed.

In the infant classes, they are all free to go and play with cars, or tea sets, or teddy bears/dolls.

Shoebox Appeal -> the organisers asked that the boxes be differentiated (girls/boys) but there were no requirements as to the contents.

Concerning the Golden Rules, my children (who are in different classes) frequently come back from school complaining that they are no longer allowed to defend themselves...

At LFI, we prefer to solve problems by talking about them.

We do not wish pupils to employ a 'physical' response to a problem.

It is perfectly possible to defend oneself without a 'physical' response (speech, get help from an adult...)

The 10 Golden Rules remind everyone (parents and pupils) of the safe space we want for everyone.

The Golden Rule for the month of February will be STOP STOP TELL. This rule could do with being explained to some pupils.

Reminder: When violence occurs, the 'victims' must tell an adult without delay.

Extra-curricular activities after the school closes in June?

There will not be a summer camp organised by LFI this year in June.

- Very little interest among parents (fewer than 20 pupils interested in June 2018)
- Complicated to organise: insurance, supervision, what activities to offer...
- There may be building works planned...

Some parents put forward the idea that the lack of interest last year was because the survey was carried out too late.

→ In 2016-2017, an external company used our premises to offer a camp (Lego).

We will get in touch with companies to offer the use of our premises.

On one parent's suggestion, we will get in touch with Newpark to find out if they would like to offer a summer camp from 17th June. Answer to follow.

These minutes are available on the school website, and in hard copy in the school entrance hall.