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Dear Parents,

As you are aware we recently received very positive news when we were awarded €157,801 through the Sports Capital grant. This money will help fund the installation of an astroturf facility on our school pitch which will be a fantastic facility for our school and wider community. Our application was jointly made with Galtee Gaels ladies club and we hope that the club will also benefit hugely from this. We will also be making our facility available to other local clubs. Speaking with a number of companies, the project will take 6-8 weeks to complete, and there is an opening to complete this work in spring. However, this will depend on a number of factors. Finance being the main one. We have received a quote of €185,000 to install a 52m x 30m pitch, 3m perimeter fencing around the pitch, 3m ballstop netting on top of this fencing, and columns for 4 LED floodlights. There will be a number of additional costs with the project such as planning permission, removal of trees, removal of existing fencing, removal of soil from the pitch, etc.

Our Sports Capital application was for €200,000 and while we are delighted to be awarded €157,000 we are left with a shortfall. Our fundraising goal is €40,000. We will be launching our fundraising campaign after Halloween. A Fundraising committee has been set up which is made up of representatives from our staff, Board of Management, Parents Association and Galtee Gaels Ladies club. We will be seeking help from all parents in the school in our fundraising efforts.

Our first fundraiser will consist of the sale of plaques which will be fixed onto the fencing surrounding our pitch. A similar very successful fundraiser was carried out by Galtee Gaels recently. This plaque will be inscribed with the donators name, family name or a particular message and will be displayed for years to come. The cost of an engraved plaque is €100. We understand that not everyone will be in a position to pay for a plaque, and we would greatly accept whatever support you may be able to afford. We will be in contact with more information after the midterm break. We will be accepting money via bank transfer, a GoFundMe page, cheque, cash, etc but we will not be collecting money until after our fundraiser is launched.

Our astroturf facility will be one of two very exciting projects we hope to commence before the end of the school year. As you are aware we were approved in recent years by the Department of Education to build an extension on to our school. We have been working hard behind the scenes over the past 2 years liaising with our Design Team consisting of Architects, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, Civil Engineers, Quantity Surveyors and the PDSP team. We were delighted to be awarded planning permission for this project last July. We are currently on Stage 2b of the build. We hope to be approved to Stage 3 in the coming months which entails more detailed

drawings being made up and the tendering of the project to builders. Stage 4 is construction. Our target is to begin construction works during the summer. This project consists of:

- (x2) new 70m<sup>2</sup> autism classrooms (total 140m<sup>2</sup>)
- (x1) 80m<sup>2</sup> Central activities space
- (X2) 12m<sup>2</sup> Quiet Space/Sensory Areas
- (X1) Multi Activity Room 20m<sup>2</sup>
- (x1) Daily Living Skills area (kitchen etc.) 15m<sup>2</sup>
- Staff toilets 10m<sup>2</sup>
- Storage 30m<sup>2</sup>
- Office 20m<sup>2</sup>
- Staff room 24m<sup>2</sup>
- New Learning Support Room 10m<sup>2</sup>
- Student toilets 30m<sup>2</sup>

In total the extension will be close to 500m<sup>2</sup> in size almost doubling the size of our existing school building. We will also be expanding the school car park as well as installing a 100m<sup>2</sup> secure soft play area and 80m<sup>2</sup> sensory garden. This fully funded project will have a transformative impact on our school allowing us to cater for every child's needs with the best facilities available. This is something that each and every one of us in our community can be most proud of. These enhancements to our school will be of wonderful benefit to many girls and boys and their families into the future. The new extension will be built on our existing ball court at the front of the school. A new larger ball court will be built at the back of the school where the old sheds will be demolished.

We had some concerns about our playground space, however with year-round use of an astroturf facility, our children will have more play space than ever.

There has been many wonderful occasions and achievements over the years in Anglesboro N.S. These 2 projects are the next milestone for our school and community. Huge work has gone into both of these projects already by our previous Board of Management as well as our new Board which was formed last year. We are appealing to current families, past families and past pupils, future families, our relations, community members, businesses and people beyond our community, to now support us on this endeavour.

Drawings of our proposed build are included in the 2 documents below this newsletter.

Is mise le meas,

Seán Kearney