**Notes of Parent Council Meeting**

**May 26th 2020 4pm Via Zoom**

**In Attendance**; Tina Cunningham, Katie Bonar, Linda Kirkpatrick, Maureen MacDonald, Kate Brown, Bonnie Wood, Moira Shakespeare,

**Apologies;** Maria Heads (technical glitches)

**Transition**

Maureen briefed the council on the transition plans under way – all 4 year olds and P7’s will receive written reports, posted on 29th May reaching families the following week.

3 year olds plus P1-P6 will receive reports via Seesaw from class teachers.

The Baptist Church are gifting bibles to the 4 year olds transitioning into P1, along with youth bibles and dictionaries for P7’s.

Mr Shakespeare is organising posters for the P7’s with comments printed, t-shirts will also be gifted.

Chilly bottles were suggested as a gift from the school and parent council. The Parent Council were all In agreement to fund 50% of the cost of these for the 14 leavers at circa £20 each.

**Action:** Tina Cunningham to research bottles for purchase and arrange re-imbursement via school and parent council funds respectively.

**Next Steps during Covid pandemic**

Seesaw is going really well and the education officer has been very impressed.

Port Ellen Staff are meeting regularly and have also had joint school meetings with Bowmore which have been very successful.

Staff will be asked to go into schools during June to prepare for pupils returning in August. This task combined with staff teaching in the central Bowmore Hub and their own seesaw class teaching means that tasks between teachers and indeed between schools will be shared enabling staff cover across the three tasks.

Guidance will be provided to head teachers on layout and class sizes in relation to social distancing.

The return of pupils in classes in the blended (home & school learning) model will likely be based on employment not classes e.g. siblings will be in school together at the same time enabling parents to work.

Prior to Covid-19 the school had ordered large screens for classroom teaching so this will be vital in the new blended learning environment with an increase in distance digital learning.

The schools have a focus on grant funding, particularly pupil equity funding, with an aim to ensure all pupils have an i-pad each to enable learning in the new blended model. For Port Ellen school staff are seeking grants of £14k-£20k to enable this to happen.

**School Improvement Plan**

There will be a focus on;

* Pedagogy – methods of teaching for 3-year olds
* Digital Technology
* Recovery post Covid
* Emotion Works
* Literacy and Numeracy

There will be separate priorities for the nursery covering all aspects.

**P7’s Leavers**

The council discussed what would be possible for P7’s as a leaving event as the planned activities would not be able to take place. It was noted that the significance of ‘Walking out of the gates for the last time’ would be very well received and could be done within social distancing guidelines.

Agreed that 24th June we could hold and event with bunting for the P7’s to ‘leave school’ and perhaps families could join on the road and applaud the leavers. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday 17th June 4pm via Zoom. Bonnie will email the zoom link.