**Parent Council Update - Zoom - 18/01/21**

**Present** - Tony Jordan, Kellie Smith, Joyce Gray, Kathryn Foot, Lynsey Milne, Lorna Rogers, Julia Boyle, Alison Weir

**Apologies** - Ashley Thomson

All families had the opportunity to have a quick catch up on zoom (link shared via various platforms). No formal agenda as it was to touch base about returning to lockdown learning. Here are some bullet points.

**STAFF OUTLINE OF LEARNING**

* 3 pupils of key workers are currently attending school (not every day) and have adapted well.
* Newbigging pupils are attending Monikie primary - keep costs low and help pupils and staff to have support.
* Highlight that it is NOT a learning hub.
* The Head and Principal Teacher have one day together in school on a Wednesday, all other days either one is in school.
* There are no available devices to hand out to pupils.
* Online learning is supplied for all via weekly grids (created by staff as they would do if schools were still running as normal).
* It is a CONTINUATION of learning and all are following the same program.
* MS Teams and Dojo to be primarily used to stay connected, deliver online classes, share links for flexible learning and have video and messenger chat options.

**ISSUES RAISED BY FAMILIES**

* Lots of jumping backwards and forwards between MSTeams and Dojo and messages - very overwhelming and confusing.
* Access to devices, especially for larger families, impacts learning. Having to share machines with siblings and parents isn't easy.
* Some families prefer weekly learning rather than day to day format so they could plan ahead.
* Struggling to find the right balance between work, school, play, life (staff and families alike!)
* Very hard for single parents and working parents, especially those in reactive roles, that can’t be flexible with their time.
* Parents are aware to try not to become stressed, but it is very hard to not feel inadequate or that they are letting everyone down as they struggle to understand and deliver lessons or have the time to.
* Children seem to need constant supervision and support - limited independent learning as pupils are struggling to follow instructions and focus.
* Confusion over which platform to upload completed work to.
* Confusion over HOW to upload completed work.
* Not all pupils getting online interactive lessons delivered and some highlight older pupils feel disconnected and could benefit from this too.

**SOLUTIONS**

* Staff and families decide Dojo should be used to upload all completed work to the one place.
* A video will be created by KS on guidance to use Dojo (done and shared).
* All pupils will be given the opportunity to have online video calls and staff members can mute so they can talk with each other as no video calls can be made without staff.
* Encourage pupils to use the playground chat in MSTeams to stay connected with each other.
* Staff highlight that the grids are only suggestions for families - staff create these as part of their lesson plans as guidance for the week - No one is expected to complete everything listed. If time is limited, at least try to focus on literacy and maths, even just one a day.
* Families can work at their own pace - more or less can be done each day and completed work can be shared when people have time - not expected every day.
* Staff are always available so please contact if any issues - positive or negative!
* Encourage older pupils to be more independent and take control of their own workload and uploading completed work.
* Staff highlight learning can be done in many different ways and to PLEASE not get distressed. Mental health and well being are much more important right now.

\*In light of the First Minister's announcement this week, an update on pupils returning to school will be issued once solid information is received.\*

 Next catch up meeting - possibly Mar 2021 - tbc

Any concerns, support or suggestions please don’t hesitate to contact any staff member via Dojo, MSTeams, email or by telephoning Monikie primary 01382 768115 (not all staff will be there every day).

Parent Council can be contacted via our private Facebook page Newbigging School Community or email NPPC.contact@gmail.com