



## Lochnorris Primary School Parent Council

17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 6.30pm in School

**Present:** C Donnelly, T Flemming, C Heggie, J D'Agostino

**In Attendance:** C O'Driscoll, L Smith, Councillor N Watts

### 1. Welcome

CD welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

S Hill, L Thomas, R Cowan, L Wright, K Feruguson, L Punton, A Walls

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were approved by general consensus.

### 4. Matters Arising/Action Plan

#### **App issues**

The school are aware with technical issues with the app however were reassured by the provider that the most recent software update should have resolved these. There is a new app being rolled out towards the end of March however there will be a crossover period. C. O'Driscoll confirmed that there are alternate ways of communicating with parents in the case of an emergency should the current app not be available.

### 5. Correspondence

Parent Steering group's last agenda had changed to discuss 'let's talk education survey'. No representative from Lochnorris parent council was able to attend.

### 6. Head Teacher Update

C O'Driscoll provided the update.

The school had great feedback about their concerts over the festive period and it was acknowledged how nice it is to see the campus coming together along with being able to take the school choir into the local hospice. The school also had Christmas parties, lower school assemblies and reverse advent calendars for local foodbanks along with children in need fundraising. Dyslexia awareness week was also a focal point in the school's calendar.

After reviewing the recent survey results it was decided that parent's evenings will remain face to face for the time being.

There will be a continuation of extra-curricular clubs like netball, mindfulness group, Lego groups, choir, dance clubs and football with Kilmarnock FC.

School improvement plans have continued with Holistic numeracy training with a development officer from EA. Classroom assistants have also had some more advanced training for their role along with training in numeracy and literacy support. An internal quality assurance assessment was carried out on writing for the whole school where all teachers received feedback. The school has also continued in their work with Dumfries house and the Harmony project.

C O'D also discussed that online learning journals would become available shortly with specific classes piloting these to begin with.

It was discussed that there would be an East Ayrshire authority level learning visit of the school carried out in February. This would consist of a QA officer, an attainment advisor, and a head teacher from another school. There would also be opportunity for self-evaluation. Parent Council input may be requested nearer the time.

### **Homework Survey**

L. Smith took the group through the homework survey which was collated at the last parent's evening. The data had yet to be reviewed internally by teaching staff however the parent council were invited to discuss their views on the results and current homework policies.

There were 72 responses to the survey with the following results.

1. How important do you think homework is to your child's learning?  
Neutral 15%  
Somewhat important 28%  
Somewhat unimportant 10%  
Very important 47%
2. How do you feel about the amount of homework your child current receives?  
About right 82%  
Not enough 2%  
Too much 15%
3. Does your child complete their homework individually?  
Yes 34%  
No 17%  
Sometimes 49%
4. How difficult does your child find their homework?  
It's about right 86%  
It's too hard 7%  
It's too easy 7%
5. Are you able to support your child with their homework?  
Yes 78%  
No 0%  
Somewhat 22%
6. Which type of homework does your child most engage with?

- Maths 50%
- Reading 25%
- Spelling 7%
- Topic 11%
- Writing 7%
7. How much time does your child spend on their homework each week?
- 5-10 minutes 8%
- 15-20 minutes 35%
- 30 minutes 35%
- 60 minutes or longer 22%
8. How much time do you think your child should spend on their homework each week?
- 5-10 minutes 10%
- 15-20 minutes 30%
- 30 minutes 40%
- 60 minutes or longer 20%
9. Does homework cause tension at home?
- Always 10%
- Never 28%
- Sometimes 62%
10. How do you think homework should be issued?
- Online 9%
- Paper 26%
- Mix of both 65%
11. When should homework be issued?
- Everyday to be handed in the next day 3%
- Monday to be handed in a Friday 71%
- Longer for some tasks (few weeks) 3%
- A mix of the above 23%

Good discussion took place around the results and what actions could come from the survey.

It was noted by the parent council that some parents found it helpful to have homework issued Wednesday – Wednesday in order to have the weekend to complete. It was also discussed that if homework was not mandatory it would be helpful to have information (similarly to termly jigsaw) on what your child is learning that term in order to prompt discussions about learning at home. Whilst some other parents found homework for children with additional learning needs can cause tension and tiredness with the child. Bug Club was discussed, and a suggestion was made of linking into EAC library digital service to encourage access to different books. L. Smith agreed to keep the parent council informed on discussions with teachers on the results of the survey.



## **7. AOB**

### **School Blog/Website**

The school are looking to update this in the near future however face capacity restraints as it is time consuming. They are looking at ways of involving the pupil 'digital leaders' group'.

### **MCR Pathways**

Jillian D'Agostino discussed that though her own employment she is involved with the MCR pathways mentoring programme, currently this is not rolled out within East Ayrshire. She has spoken to Peter Gilchrist about using RBA as a pilot school in the area with the help of available council funding. This can also be linked to children within Lochnorris who may benefit from the programme as this is available from p7 onwards.

### **Staff changes**

Murray Gilroy is now acting Depute Head and an advert has gone externally to fill his previous PT position.

### **BBC Documentary P7**

The BBC have contacted the school for their involvement in a 'now and then' style documentary about Cumnock which will be available online. School may be looking for input of local people or groups to assist. Suggestions of appropriate local groups and contacts given by members e.g. Cumnock History Group and the Heritage Centre.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the school. Guest speaker Hayley Moroke.

### **Upcoming events**

- P7 residential – booked Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- BBC Documentary on life in Cumnock throughout the generations
- Authority Inspection of school. (Mock assessment)
- Scottish Celebrations to take place throughout February.

**Lochnorris Parent Council – Rolling Action Plan**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>27/10/20</b>	Breakfast Club	C O'D  Chair	Now established – item closed
<b>26/4/22</b>	Consideration of fundraising remit	CD	To be included as agenda item for AGM.  7/9/22 for ongoing discussion
<b>26/4/22</b>	Safety/security – supervision across campus	CO'D	8/6/22 – School to remind/update parents on safe walking routes, areas supervised by staff and where parents are permitted.
<b>26/4/22</b>	Cross campus sharing of staff	CO'D	
<b>8/6/22</b>	Consider survey for PEACE Childcare after summer	All	7/9/22 - On hold – to pick up in future