

Lainshaw Parent Council

4th September 2024

Attendees: John (Chair), Mr Johnstone (HT), Cllr. Freel, Caroline, Leanne, Howard, Anna, Shona

1) Introductions

Chair welcomed parents to the first meeting of the new term.

Members have noted that moving forward Wednesday evenings are more challenging to attend, it may be considered to re-introduce a team's meeting or hybrid to support attendance when parents have other commitments.

Howard Fenton will continue to attend meetings now as a member of Stewarton Initiatives, making a further direct link with the community.

AGM will take place in November.

2) Headteachers Update

Mr Johnstone gave a staffing update across the school and ECC, including the phased return of Miss Speirs. Mrs McFarlane will remain acting depute in the interim.

Mr Johnstone was able to inform the members of the school roll dropping this year 376 children within the school.

As a school they are presently below the threshold for two deputies, however no impact is taken unless this continues long-term.

The roll dropping has enabled the Primary 1 and the ECC to use a spare classroom for transition and ECC children will now have their lunch in this room.

The 2year old room is already at full capacity, 3-5 rooms are not full due to the August and December intake.

ECC new staff are settling well into the team.

Care Inspection completed an inspection in June, results now published with grade 4 across the areas required. Report and feedback included advice to enable improvements.

The report was supportive alongside more detailed feedback for the Centre to use moving forward.

A big well done to the Early Years team.

A learning visit also took place in the school in May, with clear priorities for improvements, overall, a positive report.

Dates of school events will be included in HT's first newsletter, this will be available as a paper copy.

3) School Improvement Plan

This is a statutory document for the academic year, with consultation from staff, parents and pupils.

Included is feedback from the Learning View visit.

Some points remain the same as last year but are being developed further such as the further development and consistency to the Pupil Council.

Further developments will be made to Digital Leadership.

French is the second language within the school.

BSL curriculum will be introduced for the first time.

A Staff well-being training program will be completed by all teachers this year.

ORACY – Mrs Martin will continue to support this initiative.

Wrap-a-round spelling will continue to be embedded throughout the schools.

Numeracy including times tables will be a focus.

Expressive arts will be more consistently visible this academic year.

Transitions between Primary 1 and the ECC will continue to be promoted positively.

Learning Journals within the school will continue to be used as it is seen beneficial, this is paid for by the school. ECC is funded by the Council.

More parental Involvement will take place throughout the year including an end of term showcase and starting with a Meet the Teacher event.

Mr Johnstone is seeking skills from parents/ carers who can contribute a skill or knowledge of their job, to be involved in the school outwith World of Work Week, meeting the needs of the pupils throughout the year, when relevant to them.

4) Outdoor Classroom Update

Space is much cleaner and clearer with maintenance throughout the summer.

Health and Safety Action Plan points from last term Council inspection have been addressed.

Sustainable toilets, heating and power remain the ideas to be taken forward, grants are to be considered to fund these improvements.

5) AOB

-Morton Road Challenges.

Parents have raised concerns about the deterioration of the path and overhanging trees. Families requiring this entrance are finding it challenging.

Ideally the path could be widened, supporting the volume at drop off and pick up times.

Mr Johnstone also recognizes within the school the path is in poor repair and pram access is on grass, a path around the stairs would aid families further.

Ellen Freel has contacted various Council Departments to support parent and school concerns.

East Ayrshire Policy, including national guidance for children in Primary 4-7 enables children to be dismissed from their teacher without a parent present and if required can be met by family at the gate, however children in primary 1-3 it is within standard Circular for each pupil to have a family member present. This information will be outlined within the newsletter.

The crossing patrol continues to have recruitment issues which remains a cause for concern, Ellen Freel will contact the council for further information.

-Transition.

Primary 7 and S1 events in the calendar for the year, overall, there are monthly activities for the children.

-Homework.

Returns of homework remain low, a PC survey will give parents an opportunity to offer their thoughts.

-Finance and sustainability.

Parents may wish to offer the school items that may be of benefit to the pupils such as stationary, wet weather fun resources, it will be considered how to pass this on to parents with guidance on what the pupils would benefit from perhaps with support from the PA. alongside perhaps the introduction of an Amazon gift list, supporting sustainability further.

The safer school's app is now set up to report pupils' absence, phone calls will remain available if required.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 09 October