**Present: Melissa Coll (MC), Emma Williamson (EW), Lise Fisher (LF), Christine Carswell (CC), Deborah Wilson (DW), Gillian Cox (GC), Lorraine Jenkins (LJ), Ali Preston (AP), David Clubley (DC), Fiona McKenna (FMcK), Rebecca Nicholson (RN), Gill Christianson (PTA) (GCh),  Bryan McLachlan (BMcL), Jo McGregor (JMcG)**

**Apologies: Claire Reid**

* RN welcome to all and thanks for attending.

Referenced previous meeting notes – be useful to try and disseminate to wider parent body to ease concerns. Further thanks received from parents for all the support and communications from school. DW updated that food bags are now going direct to qualifying homes and toothbrushes in them but they will be added soon (probably for the start of National Smile Month in mid-May)

* Update from BMcL

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**Carolside Primary School and Nursery Class**

**Head Teacher’s Diary**

**28th April 2020**

You may remember that at the last meeting I attended in February I mentioned that the school was vigilant of the gathering momentum of the spread of Coronavirus. Even at that stage, I don’t think we could have predicted the implications for school life and life beyond school. The word unprecedented has been used an unprecedented number of times over recent weeks, and is just one of the words we could use to describe these most challenging of days. Above all that I will share this evening I hope that you and your children are well at this time. This, more than anything, is the priority for all at the moment.

Tonight I want to update you with regard to two aspects of our work currently:

1. The implications school closure on day-to-day operations at this time,
2. Implications for continuity and recovery.

**School Closure**

Upon the closure of the school on the 20th of March there were two priorities:

1. How to move learning online for all of our learners, and
2. Establishing the Hub School provision for the children of key frontline workers.

1. All pupils have access to online learning at this time. All P1 and P2 classes have been accessing learning from class blogs, while P3 to P7 have been accessing learning on Google Classroom. Fortunately, we had invested a lot of time into these resources so transition has been as good as we could have expected it to be. As we closed we shared with all of our families and staff a broad expectation of what daily work should look like - this was designed to strike a balance between reinforcing key skills and ensuring that it is manageable for everyone. The keys aspects of this include:
* Daily literacy and numeracy work, with weekly ICT, PE and French (which is being added this week). Additional tasks have been set by teachers as appropriate.
* There is no compulsion for everyone to do everything every day - we are well aware of the challenges of supporting children while working at home.
* We have to strike a reasonable balance for teachers too - many are working from home while caring for young children.
* Teachers are able to access and respond to requests for help from pupils on the Google Classroom platform, while all parents/carers have access to the teacher by email.
* Remember, that there is not an expectation of absolute consistency across all online classrooms. Broad guidance is being adhered to in all cases, but as can be the case in school, our teaching staff are all different so their approach will differ slightly from classroom to classroom. It’s difficult to get it right for absolutely everyone, so we have shared resources in our weekly newsletter, developed a specific home learning page on our website and used Twitter to share ideas. We’re really grateful to everyone for their positive words of encouragement and engagement with this approach to learning.
* Finally, pupils who are not engaging frequently can be identified and members of the leadership team can call families to offer support.
1. Hub School is based in Netherlee and we average less than ten children every day. Small group of staff committed to supporting this provision, for which I am grateful. The children work from their online classroom with the support of the teacher for the early part of the day, then do collective activities for the remainder of the day. There are children from P1 to P7 engaging in this provision, but they are all working well together. This provision will continue to be on offer over both May holiday weekends.

**Continuity and Recovery**

While the focus of our work since the closure has been very much day-to-day, we are now finding a new rhythm to the work we’re doing, so attention turns to continuity and recovery.

By continuity I am referring to how we address as much of the work as the summer term as possible, even though we are closed. There are a number of things here:

1. School Improvement Planning. We will press on with the work of preparing a School Improvement Plan for next session. Stakeholder consultations will be shared next week and we would value the feedback we are offered. There will be a focus on recovery in the SIP for next year, as will there be a focus on the wellbeing of our children following a time of lengthy closure. If we can ensure that we are addressing this to the best of our ability then we can address the issues of educational progress.
2. A working party that will focus on homework, and another that will focus on literacy, will convene this term too. This was work identified in the SIP for this session, so we would like to progress this in preparation for next session. When the SIP is in draft form I’ll share it with you all for comment.
3. Transitions (ELCC to P1 and P7 to S1, in particular) This is ongoing at the moment with work taking place between our feeder ELCC provisions and our Cluster High School, Williamwood. ERC tweeted today that all placing request decisions would be delayed until the end of next month, so we will not have complete lists of who we are expecting in P1 and where our P7s are going until then. When that information is available we will conduct these transition activities remotely, using videos, written correspondence, electronic correspondence and phone calls. While this won’t be the usual model, it’s the very best that we can deliver in these unusual circumstances. Transition will continue to be our focus when the children are due to return to us. Opportunities will arise to support children in more practical ways at that time.
4. Staffing 19/20 remains challenging as a result of the situation with placing requests. However, if we will be thinking about classes and teacher allocation over the month of June. It’s not only placing requests, but issues like the number of NQTs we can expect, that cause this process to take time and patience. We’ll discuss this at a later meeting when the situation will have become clearer.

All of the above has to be covered by the caveat that the national and global landscape is shifting all of the time. Our priority is to support families so that they are kept safe and well - this will continue to be the case as we ‘recover’ and return to some element of normality. I must emphasise that the school and the Education Department have no more of an insight to the national developments than we all have. Last week there was talk about social distancing in schools, part-time schooling and the implications of living alongside the virus in the long-term. Again, I know no more than you do at this time, but we continue to liaise with the Education Department daily and as these plans develop we’ll communicate them to you.

**Other News**

Mrs Bruce had a baby boy and we congratulate her. Mrs Bruce is now on maternity leave and has been replaced by Miss Kate Meechan, who was previously with us. Miss Meechan will be with us  until the summer holidays, and will offer some French support for children until then. We welcome Miss Meechan back to us and wish Mrs Bruce good luck as she enjoys her new family life.

We are delighted to have received our reaccreditation as a Rights Respecting Gold School. This thorough and detailed accreditation visit took place last month and we received our report last week. It speak so highly of everyone involved in the accreditation process across the school, and we are grateful to all who have contributed to this, particularly the Equalities Committee, led by Mrs Gillian, and to all of the parents and carers who were able to participate during the accreditation visit. I’ve attached the final report to this report. In it you’ll read some very positive comments about ethos and pupil leadership, two aspects of the school that we have invested so much in over recent years. Thanks again to all!

Finally, heartfelt thanks for all of your support and understanding over recent weeks. We’re deep into unchartered waters as a school, but the support that families have offered has been quite exceptional and there remains a great sense of community even though we cannot be together at this time. On behalf of all of the staff our very best wishes to you all. I hope you all keep safe and healthy in the weeks ahead and remember that we are close by if there’s any support we can offer.

* Questions – RN – increasingly likely school won’t reopen until after the summer.   BMcL reiterated notes from update – fluid, challenging situation and no additional knowledge at LA level as yet.
* From feedback, LF asked around potential for earlier release of work to parents to avoid 9.30am rush to set up/start school and work at same time etc. Possibility of using automation on google classroom? Live video or online engagement not an option - too open to risk. Staff doing their best to support and reality is this will be a varied approach as it is within school. Dependent on their own circumstances / ability to get online / confidence with technology etc.
* AP – can hub requests be updated as necessitated by changing work circumstances for parents becoming key workers etc. BMcL confirmed this is possible by emailing the school or the BMcL directly, as are needs of families in relations to siblings if there should be partial reopening of school.
* Several points around different approaches / expectation to feedback from online learning. HR reiterated that  there is no pressure and no compulsion to do all tasks every day. Some work comes in through google drive, staff available via email including leadership team. Will look at mechanisms for feedback and messaging to parents around this.
* FMc – appreciation of school’s focus on wellbeing. Stated suggestion from a lot of P3 people that work has ramped up this week with introduction of new concepts causing stress. Also asked around differentiation of work levels and transitions.  Other reps haven’t received any specific feedback of this nature.  BMcL stated there’s an important balance in aiming not to give repetitive work every week or having parents becoming stressed at trying to teach. He’s encouraged by messages received however there is continual focus on how this is handled, including differentiation within a class and the tasks given. Transition plans challenging due to delays to placing requests amongst other things. JMcG considering induction blog, with video intros to staff and environment etc.  ‘Things I wish I’d known’ booklet can support this.
* GCh – PTA update –  Debbie Gall focussed on providing bigger, better P7 leaving celebrations when possible, though social distancing will be a potential challenge.  Impact on PTA fundraising – no summer fayre, games night, discos etc. Expect to have £2k in bank over summer however once existing commitments met (hoodies, winter garden, new playground equipment etc) and this is constitutionally acceptable. Winter Garden halted for now, new playground equipment will be in as soon as possible. New Chair is Rosie Welsh, Sophie Maudsley to be Vice Chair, Jackie Wilson cont. as Treasurer and Laura Bunning as Secretary. Lack of ability to connect with potential new members currently – need support to get more people involved, especially P1 parents.  Current 3 Chairs will stay on in non-officer capacity

Reminder that childminders are able to offer flexible care for key worker children at this time, if they have registered to do so.
* RN – reminder that May would normally be last meeting of year pre-AGM. Likely AGM will be delayed until possible to hold it and asked that all members advise of their intent to stay on PC (if in first year) or interest in staying on if in year 2 (could mean a ballot if interest exceeds places available). Nominations invited for Chair and potentially Vice Chair positions.
* Query on Lockerbie trip for P6 – still booked but unknown whether it can go ahead – payment is delayed until it can be confirmed. Parent Pay will be closed to avoid issues. Very difficult to secure dates - 2021 trip is already booked -  may prove impossible to rearrange this year group if cancelled. Suitable approved alternatives may be considered though these are limited.
* Encouragement to all to share messages with parent body as far as possible and contact school / PC with any concerns or queries.
* Next Zoom meeting **Tuesday 26 May, 7pm** - please send RN any agenda items.

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