

# Kirkhill Primary School Parent Council

## PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 23rd MARCH 2021

LOCATION: ONLINE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

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### Parent Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Welcome
  2. Apologies
  3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting and Approval of Minutes
  4. Parent Council Matters
  5. Local Improvement Plan
  6. Uniform Bank
  7. Spending Requests
  8. Head Teacher's Report
  9. Any Other Business
  10. Date of Next Meeting
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#### 1. Welcome

Sidra welcomed all present to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies

Claire Sunderland, Lorraine Fleming, Pete Kewin, Hazel Aitken, Kathryn Chisholm, Shona Melrose, Pamela Cochrane.

#### 3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting and Approval of Minutes

No issues/comments were raised from the minutes from the last meeting on 28th January 2021, which were duly approved.

#### 4. Parent Council Matters

##### i. Updates from Meetings

- i. Parent Council Chairs Meeting: agenda and discussion mainly centred on the phased return of pupils following the 2nd lockdown and staffing and the rollout of home testing for pupils and staff. Also touched on curriculum with guidance from the Education Department but with HTs leading focus and assessing needs of their own schools. Overall there is continued emphasis on children's resilience, good hygiene, wellbeing and developing outdoor learning - and ongoing assessment of safety and ensuring remote learning strategies are maintained and developed
- ii. Connect: Building Communities. Parent Councils can play a role in parent and pupil engagement, particularly for those marginalised/excluded, by concentrating on focus on inclusion/equality and what makes a great school (safety, happiness, caring, welcome) and a recognition of wider achievements and building communication and confidence and community
- iii. Connect: Social Media and School Communication. Discussed the role of the Parent Council in promoting contact between the parent forum, the school and the wider community, with multiple channels of communication available. What works best/is preferable for your individual school? A lot of success stories with using smartphone apps for all (school and Parent Council) communications
- iv. Equalities Forum: Lindsay Brown reported on the most recent Equalities Forum which focused on the inequalities exposed and exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic in terms of health & wellbeing, household incomes, gender inequality and increases in domestic violence and mistreatment and abuse of children. How these issues are being addressed was also discussed, in particular through use of Pupil Equity Fund to reduce the impact of poverty on attainment and achievement; signposting support and services (MART, ER

Back to School Bank) and by actively working to reduce the Cost of the School Day - which delivers a positive impact to all families, not just those in poverty. Further information is available through the Parent Council and the school

## **5. Local Improvement Plan 2021-24**

The aim of the Local Improvement Plan over the next three years is to provide guidance to individual centres, schools, services in planning for improvement (not to prescribe improvements or how to proceed) and to deliver the vision of everyone attaining and everyone achieving, through excellent experiences.

Underpinned by four priorities:

- Improve Attainment
- Closing the attainment gap between those at the top and those at the bottom
- Improve health & wellbeing
- Improve employability/skills of all school leavers

## **6. Uniform Bank**

The Uniform Bank has been a great success in the last few years but has hard hit by the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. So we wondered how we could adapt what we do and work together to be able to reintroduce this valuable service while staying safe. With the support of the school we are planning Uniform Amnesty Day where clean, serviceable items of uniform can be dropped off at the school gate.

## **7. Spending Requests**

Our anticipated expenditure in the next period relates to our traditional P7 spending - fortunately restrictions look to be easing so we hopefully will be able to have some degree of celebration and festivities planned for the end of their time at Kirkhill:

- High School Ties: £550
- Leavers' Event: we always budget up to £1000 in support of the P7 Leavers' Dance

Both of these expenditures were approved by majority vote of those in attendance.

## **8. Head Teacher's Report**

Liz Edmonstone began her report by thanking all parents and carers for their continued support, patience and understanding in ongoing difficult circumstances.

Remote Learning Feedback: Liz shared selected feedback from the recent survey of parents & carers on Remote Learning, results of which has been shared with staff in order to adapt and improve resources available for children who need to self-isolate:

- Child completes school work in time allocated: 62.4% responses positive
- Child receives right amount of school work: 72.4% responses positive
- I know where to get support to help my child learn at home: 83.2% responses positive

Children also completed a survey during lockdown:

- Amount of time spent on device at home: 66.7% of responses 'Just Right'
- Twice-daily opportunities to meet teacher in Google Classroom: 83.9% of responses 'Just Right'
- Daily tasks (Numeracy, Literacy, H&WB) set by teacher: 67.8% of responses 'Just Right'

Home Learning Resources: resources have been created and links to teaching videos created to support any pupils learning at home due to self-isolation, all accessible on the school website. These can be used to support pupils who need to be off for any reason due to COVID-19. If a class or large group goes into self-isolation, we will send information to pupils via Seesaw.

Keeping Kirkhill Safe: we are maintaining a number of measures to mitigate the risk of COVID19 to the school community, including:

- Continuing to keep up to date and follow guidance
- continue to encourage very high standards of hygiene amongst pupils and staff
- Handwashing regularly throughout the school day
- Hand sanitiser available in all rooms and at front entrance
- Pupils encouraged to bring their own sanitiser and carry with them at all times. Own hand wash if sensitive
- 2m distance between adults and pupils and adults and adults throughout the school
- Visitors to school limited
- Staff wearing masks around the school (except those medically exempt)
- Parents/Carers encouraged to wear masks at gates and keep 2m distance from others

- COVID flowchart issued this week

**Assessments:** every year pupils in P3, P5 and P7 complete ERC standardised assessments. Pupils in P1, P4 and P7 complete Scottish National Standardised Assessments. These assessments form a small part of a bigger picture, and they are used to help staff inform next steps in learning, plan learning and teaching, and as part of their informed judgements on a child's learning and attainment levels. These assessments will be completed in April and May this session. We want the pupils to be relaxed when taking the assessments, and we are reassuring them that these are part of ongoing assessments - we do not want any pupils or families stressed or anxious about them! They are one small piece of a big assessment jigsaw for the whole year. As part of the normal reporting process teachers use this information, alongside a wide range of other assessment information, to discuss with you how your child is progressing with their learning. The information is also used by schools to plan improvements in literacy and numeracy provision.

**Achievements:** Our pupils achieve a range of skills and attributes through a wide range of activities. As a school, we are committed to recognising a broad sense of achievement. Therefore, in addition to the many ways in which we celebrate achievement within school we'd like to remind parents and carers that we welcome news of any of your child's additional achievements your child. If you send a photograph of your child with a certificate, trophy, etc. and outline the achievement including the pupil's first name only - to [AchievementsK1@kirkhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:AchievementsK1@kirkhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk) or tweet us at @KirkhillPS - we will ensure your child's achievement is celebrated on the school's Twitter feed, the plasma screen at reception and in the hall during lunch times and before assemblies.

**Uniform Bank/Collection:** further to Sidra's comments earlier on the Uniform Bank, Liz explained proposed way of working - we'll be accepting at the school gates, nearly-new, clean items of:

- school jumpers
- School trousers/shorts
- School skirts
- Ties
- Summer dresses
- Pinafores
- School tracksuits
- Tshirts/polo shirts with school crest

Put each item into a clear bag with description and age on front (1 item per bag). Once uniform has quarantined in school it will then be available - information will be made available in April on how to receive clothing from the Uniform Bank.

Finally, Liz provided information on new legislation - Guidance on Food & Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020 - which takes effect from 8th April 2021. Education authorities are ultimately responsible for ensuring all food and drink provided comply fully with the Regulations. However, everyone involved with providing food and drink on school premises can play a part in supporting compliance by making themselves aware of the requirements.

The Regulations apply to all food and drink provided to children and young people across the school day - not just school lunches - including:

- breakfast clubs, tuckshops or after school clubs
- catering staff providing lunches, evening meals and other food and drink, for example mid-morning break, in primary schools, secondary schools and school hostels
- Teachers and other school staff supporting food and drink-related social enterprises
- Community cafés which are part of the school campus and serve children and young people during the school day
- Anyone providing food and drink on school premises as part of a school holiday club
- Any other person who is involved in the provision of food and drinks in schools or on school premises, including voluntary and private organisations - including Parent Council run/organised events

## 9. Any Other Business

N/A

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday 17th June 2021 - most likely online.