



Maidenhill Primary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 6:30pm

Present: Mr McDonald (HT), Miss Shaw (DHT), Mrs Barr (PT), Miss Lawson, Lee de Franca (Chair), Wendy Nixon (Vice-Chair), Susan Hamill (Treasurer), Leigh O'Donnell (Treasurer), Sabrina Chalmers (Secretary), Liz Maxwell, Priyanka Kumar, Manpreet Virdee

1. Apologies: Diane Rutherford (Comms Co-ordinator), Jenny Boyd (Fundraising Co-ordinator), Clare Lamont (Secretary), Gillian McNeill, David Bickley, Lauren Kendrick, Amna Yousef (left PC), Zhada Robertson
2. New and outgoing members: Amna Yousef has now left the PC
3. Chairperson's introduction: A welcome to all at our first in-person meeting of the session.
4. Headteacher's update: Discussion points below. Please also see HT report.

Home Learning

- Mr McDonald appreciated feedback given by the parent council and the time taken for Lee de Franca (Chair) to collate this information (also see Chairperson's personal overview of the HL Policy).
- Miss Shaw and Mrs Barr confirmed that an extremely high number of children engage with home learning. No figure was placed on this, but it was implied that the vast majority of children do take part in home learning.
- The following points were given by the PC as feedback on the Home Learning policy (*Mr McDonald/School's responses in italics*):
 - The Home Learning Policy is very comprehensive
Noted.
 - The aim to develop a love of reading is welcomed
Noted.
 - Overall, too much home learning is given
Mr McDonald acknowledged this and advised that teachers had given a similar response. As the same thoughts have come from all sides, he is happy for the volume of homework to be reduced.

- Too much time is expected of parents, putting too much pressure on the child/parent/family
See above.
- Not enough feedback is given to the children and/or parents
Mr McDonald advised that the focus for home learning feedback would always be from the teacher directly to the child, most likely through learning conversations in class. He fully agreed that if children were not aware of the feedback they had been given, then class teachers would need to do more to make this explicit. Miss Shaw emphasised that immediate feedback can be the most powerful and that parents play an important role in this when supporting their child's home learning.
- Banded Reading Books are being requested by some parents to be sent home
Maidenhill's home learning policy supports the develop of childrens' love of reading and in the school's view, sending home banded reading books doesn't help in this endeavour. Banded reading books are used in class and in the library, but it is not the school's intention for these to be sent home.
- Library books aren't always being taken home – if they are, they're not always an appropriate level
Although teachers do try to guide children in their choice of library book, this also comes down to the child having the freedom to choose the book they want. There is no expectation that children would or should read the library books on their own and a shared approach is advocated. The Gignets resource is also used for at home reading.
- Jotters are not always made available
This is mentioned already within the draft policy with class teachers identified as having the responsibility to ensure children have the materials required to complete the learning tasks they are issuing.
- Day of issue may need revised, at least for spelling words
Nearly everyone was in agreement with retaining the Tues-Mon cycle. Comments were made that some children, particularly children with a specific literacy difficulty, may benefit from teachers breaking down home learning tasks over the course of a week.
- Home learning Grids are helpful but can be repetitive
Noted.
- More photos on Google Classroom would be welcomed
As Google Classroom is used for child/teacher interactions, this is not the forum that would be used to show such photos. Other platforms such as class newsletters and blogs are currently being developed further and will be used for this purpose going forward.

- Home learning shouldn't be given over holidays
Noted.
- Home learning is promoted but not mandatory
Mr McDonald reiterated that home learning has no value if it causes the child, parent or both to become stressed/anxious/upset. He agreed that if home learning causes such an atmosphere, then this is not conducive to the purpose of the home learning itself.
- Mr McDonald emphasised the importance of home learning being a positive interaction and a shared experience with parents. It encourages families to sit together and share ideas together.
- Guidance from teachers on how to encourage the children to do homework was suggested by the PC and it was agreed by the teacher representatives that this was a good idea.
- The purpose of the home learning policy is to maintain a consistent approach to home learning through the stages.
- Home learning gives parents an opportunity to see what the children are learning in school.
- The grids help parents to decide which activities can be done through the week.

Uniforms: ERC's Dressing for Excellence

- The review by ERC will not impact upon Maidenhill's uniform policy.
- Mr McDonald commented that the uniform policy only works if the parents support it.
- It was discussed P1-P3 to wear shirt and tie, with polo shirt being worn on PE days and P4-P7 wearing shirt and tie every day and to change into PE clothes in school.
- It was suggested that there could possibly be a transition for kids in P4-P5 regarding polo shirts on PE days, but acknowledged that this may cause too much of a grey area and make it harder for children to do this all the time when they're in higher stages of the school.
- There is an emphasis in regards to plain black shoes/trainers to be worn as part of the uniform (as currently many different colours of trainers are being worn by some pupils).
- Mr McDonald will also discuss uniform policy with the children at the Parliament meeting.

5. Treasurer's report: see report

6. AOB:

- a. Noticeboard Update – The noticeboard has been ordered and will arrive week beginning May 2nd. It will be placed at the right of the MUGA gate where the Covid sign is currently. Tony, the school janitor has agreed to help with this.
- b. Fundraising – Jenny Boyd sent her apologies for the meeting and wrote an update regarding fundraising. Everything went well with the spring fundraising.

Clare Lamont arranged the magician for the end of term fun day and Jenny Boyd organised the snacks and drinks for each child. A profit of £362.33 was made. Many children and families took part in the spring time activities and the winners were delighted with their prizes which were kindly donated by Asda. The Ukraine fundraiser – will be discussed at next meeting as Clare Lamont was not present. An update was given by Susan Hamill (Treasurer) who has also played an important role in organising this fundraiser. There are 8 organizers for this event. There will be drinks on arrival, a silent auction and many raffle prizes. Mr McDonald was delighted with the parent councils of 3 schools working together and sharing ideas to make this event a great success.

- c. School Lottery – Wendy Nixon (Vice-Chair) has looked into the Your School Lottery. Easy to set up and no minimum number of tickets to sell. The set up usually takes 6 weeks and a raffle license is needed. This idea will be put out to the wider parent forum to gauge interest before setting this up.
- d. Lost property – An acknowledgement and thank you to Lynne Hamilton for all her effort in sorting, cleaning and distributing the lost property.
- e. P1 and S1 ties – Donation by the parent council agreed. There are 49 P1 ties needed and 31 S1 ties needed. At a discounted price of roughly £5 per tie, the donation should be in the region of £400. The school ties will be sourced by the school.
- f. The other agenda points will be updated at the next parent council meeting.
Update: LdF provided the PC with information (via the PC WhatsApp group) in regards to the outstanding points on the agenda.

7. Date for next meeting - TBC