**APS Parent Partnership – Meeting Minutes 17/03/25**

**Attendees:** L Wood, G Cormack, Cllr Sarah Neal, Gabi Sweeney, Jen Hulse, Craig Ingram, Tamyca Sweet, Andy Irvine, Claire Stewart and Lauren Smith

**Apologies:** , Cllr David Barratt

**1.      Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the APS Partner Partnership were approved.

**2.      Head Teacher Update**

**Update from Learning Partnership**

Members of staff from certain other primary schools in the area visited APS as part of a learning partnership and quality assurance process.  This involved looking at the impact of the school's improvement plan, classroom visits, a pupil focus group and a staff focus group.  LW expressed thanks to all parents and children who participated.

The group rated the lessons they saw as 'excellent' or 'very good' and were particularly impressed with the nursery environment, with opportunities of literacy and numeracy inside and outside. This is particularly pleasing given the largely new team in the nursery.  The children summed up APS as 'small', 'together', 'friendly', 'lovely' and an 'extension of the village'.  Parents and staff also provided good feedback to the group.

**Ongoing Garden Development**

The apple trees have been pruned by pupils and parents, an audit of the garden has been completed by Claire Stewart and the P7 group and the polytunnel is scheduled to be fitted over the Easter holidays. The P7 group will work on the polytunnel as part of their social enterprise and the P6 group recently received £150 towards their social enterprise seed swap plan at a Dragon's Den style event in Glenrothes.

Young apprentices from Fife College are getting started with the garden design process and a butterfly expert is due to come into the school to work with the Eco Group to see if planting can be designed to attract the Brown Argus butterfly.

**3.      Ongoing Funding Challenges - update on iPad rollout**

GS had attended a meeting on the roll out of iPads to all pupils from P6 upwards, at a cost of £16m.  It was confirmed at the meeting that the iPad rollout was a done deal and that devices would be rolled out from this year.  Fife Council's rationale is that they believe access to personal devices will impact attainment across the board.  This is part of a wider Scottish initiative, with 10 Councils already having started the process.  From the meeting, it appeared that Fife Council's plan is to build staff and student learning on device management at the same time and that curriculum changes necessary to incorporate the use of personal devices have not been implemented.

Concerns were raised in the room around online safety, iPads being forgotten resulting in pupils not being able to participate in planned lessons, iPads being losts/unaccounted for, the process for replacing broken devices and how devices would change the way pupils are learning core subjects.  On the last point, LW commented that the school would have discretion in terms of when and how the devices would be used in the classroom.

Also discussed was the role of the Parent Partnership in working with the school to understand how the iPad rollout will impact classroom learning, how pupils can be supported at home and the discussions that need to be had around online safety, bullying, etc. LW noted that a lot of this was already in place with pupils using school devices to access the internet.  LW commented that the older pupils were particularly responsible but that issues do arise with access to devices at home.  It was noted that there was a need for parents to be educated on the risks to children of having access to personal devices.  APS should feel able to call on parents with expertise on cyber security for advice if necessary.  LW noted that there would be a contract in place with pupils to set out how the devices may be used.

GS suggested that parents with concerns about the rollout should write to Fife Council and Cllr Sarah Neal noted that parents could contact their local councillors (details available online).

**4.      Online behaviour**

As a result of a recent negative comment involving APS on social media, the Parent Partnership would like to draw parents' attention to the following:

- The correct channel for any concerns is to contact the Head Teacher, whose door is always open

- Parents should consider themselves as advocates for the school, rather than criticise publicly

- It is important for parents to model and reinforce positive behaviour to our children when posting online - we are all responsible for what we say, whether online or otherwise

- All parents are welcome to attend Parent Partnership meetings, including on an ad hoc basis, to discuss any particular topics of interest or concern

**5.      AOB**

- Question from Cllr Sarah Neal about whether it would be possible for the school to get involved in attaching plastic bottles filled with poo bags to lamp posts in a bid to reduce dog fouling in the area around the school.  GM agreed to follow up with Eco Schools.

- Question from a parent via GS regarding PE lessons being used for spring show rehearsals. LW responded that the spring show involved dance, which is part of the curriculum.

- Question from JH querying whether there would be outdoor learning every week for pupils.  LW confirmed that there would be and that it was included in the timetable.  Outdoor learning would be a balance between free learning and planned learning.