**APS Parent Partnership – Meeting Minutes 12/05/25**

**Apologies:** No Councillors In Attendance

**1.      Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

In relation to the matter raised by Cllr Sarah Neal at the last meeting about the school getting involved in attaching plastic bottles filled with poo bags to lamp posts, GC confirmed that she had passed this to Eco Schools.  GS suggested that the Parent Partnership make a post on the Aberdour Notice Board on Facebook to remind the wider community to pick up after their dogs, especially on the routes to the school.

Wider issues around safe access to school were discussed, including cars turning at certain junctions near the school and parking on double and single yellow lines.  LW noted that it was not permissible to park on single yellow lines between 10am and 6pm and that traffic wardens were expected to be patrolling the area as we move into the summer months.

It was noted that Cllr Dave Dempsey was involved in an initiative to ensure existing road markings were appropriate and that there was scope for changes to be made to make the area around the school safer for pupils.  GS noted that there may be an opportunity to start a walking bus from both ends of the village to reduce traffic levels and improve air quality in the vicinity of the school. To be picked up next session if there is interest from families.

**2.      Head Teacher Update**

**Update on classes for 25/26**

LW advised that there would be a small number of primary 1 pupils next year and that more pupils would be leaving the school than coming in.  As a result, there would continue to be six classes next year, with the split to be confirmed once staffing is known.  There would be a probationer teacher in the school next year, allowing GC to be out of class.  In response to a question from GS, LW confirmed that the school was always happy for parent volunteers, including those who perhaps had not been able to secure a probationary post following their teacher training.

GC provided an update on the nursery, noting that there was a considerable number of returners and deferrals going into the next academic year.  There had been a high number of applications for nursery spaces, resulting in a long waiting list.

LW noted that it was not possible to extend Aberdour nursery as there are adequate nursery spaces in the locality. AI queried whether APS would be able to cope with the potential influx of pupils from the proposed housing development at Hillside and LW confirmed that there was space in the school for a good number of new pupils.  GS noted that the Parent Partnership should be involved to ensure that adequate funding was received by APS from developers.

In response to a question, LW noted that parents could donate to the school through the Parents' Association. LW also noted that £300 had recently been donated [by the flower people] and that pupils had raised around £150 by making and selling beautiful clay badges.  GS suggested that the Parent Partnership share the QR code with parents to ensure everyone was aware of how donations could be made to the school.

On the note of funding, LW noted that she was due to attend a meeting on 5 June relating to the iPad roll out and that a demo would be arranged for pupils and parents in October time.  It was agreed that parents needed further information to allow the impact of the rollout to be considered in full.

**Health and Safety**

LW advised that APS's health and safety policy guidelines were drawn up a long time ago and were due to be refreshed following queries from parents.  Feedback was being sought from the partner partnership on the following matters:

- Playground safety

* Bikes and scooters are currently banned from the playground.  The ban is often not adhered to so LW queried whether it was still appropriate.  It was agreed that bikes and scooters would be permitted in the playground, other than at the busiest times (8.45-9.00am and 3.00-3.15pm) but they were not permitted on the grass at any time.  Parents/carers are responsible for making sure pupils are using their bikes and scooters responsibly and should exercise discretion as to whether it is safe to do so.
* Increasing numbers of pupils have been seen climbing on railings around the school ground and in trees in the playground.  Climbing on railings is prohibited but climbing in trees is allowed under close parental supervision and as long as care is taken not to damage the trees.
* Dogs are not permitted in the school grounds and this will remain the case.  Parents are asked not to tie up their dogs at the school gate and to leave them a sensible distance away to ensure that children with a fear of dogs do not need to walk past unattended dogs.  The back gate at the shinty pitch / football pitch end of the playground was suggested as a more appropriate place to tie up dogs.
* Parents/carers are reminded that they are responsible for their children before 9am and after 3pm while on school grounds and that pupils should be closely supervised in the playground at all times.  Parents/carers are also reminded that the car park can be accessed from the playground and that this area is out of bounds to pupils.

- Sun cream - parents were reminded that school staff are not permitted to apply sun cream to pupils and that sun cream should be applied by parents on sunny days before school. Parents should also remind pupils to re-apply sun cream at lunch time and sun hats should be worn outside.  Nursery staff are permitted to apply sun cream but nursery children should also come to nursery wearing sun cream on sunny days.

**3.      AOB**

- In response to a question, LW noted that permission had not yet been received to extend the garden but that young apprentices from Fife College are ready to work on the garden design process and a parent group is due to start the clear out process once permission is received.

- [GS noted that it was important that certain communications about school-related matters come directly from the school.  Any parents intending to share news on school-related matters should check with the school before doing so.]