

Parent Council Meeting
13th Dec 2021 @ 6pm (via Zoom)

Present

Scott Wilson (Head Teacher)
Rhianna Tweedie (Principal Teacher)
David Simpson (Chair)
Lesley Brown (Treasurer)

Kerry Simpson (Secretary)
Kay Sly (PTA)
Dawn Ewing
Linda Evans

Apologies: Haley Sim

Review of Previous AGM Minutes

- All happy to approve previous minutes

Headteachers report

General

- The kids are enjoying being back together with the removal of the class bubbles.
- We had a visit from the new Education Mgr, Karen Lees. The school leadership team did a great job of showing her around the school, explaining the projects we have been working on and the ethos of Culross.

School Improvement Plan

- The main focus will be on:
Writing
 - This will include staff development and tools for writing - handwriting, grammar and spelling
 - In Jan we will be working on mechanisms for improvement.
 - The children will be involved in a piece of writing, which will be used to look into different techniques to assess what methods are working and which are not.

Health and Wellbeing

- Following on from the 5 ways to wellbeing which included mindfulness, PE etc, we have created a progressive plan which will start fully in Aug. In preparation for this the staff are undergoing training, working on benchmarks, assessing and improving understanding.
- P1-4 will be working on a framework called Being Cool in School
- P5-7 will be working on The Connected and Compassionate Classroom.
- Having these two stages allowed for clear progression as the children move through the school.
- Information on this will be shared on SeeSaw.

Attainment

- Assessments currently carried out in P1, P4 and P7
- The current levels are exceeding the Scottish Government targets but we will still continue to strive for improvement

Numeracy	78%
Listening & Talking	91%

Reading	83%
Writing	78%

Pupil Equity Fund

- The Pupil Equity Fund is money given to the school by the Scottish Government, designed to support children who are eligible and registered for free school meals.
- The school currently use the funds to pay for additional hours for Mrs Morrison (wide range of pupil support) which benefits all the children greatly.
- Support for learning targets groups or individuals which may be struggling, have learning gaps or need more of a challenge.
- We have been using Writing Groups in the P5-7 class to support children and get them back on track, while also gaining more confidence. Anything that is learnt is fed back into class work.
- Children that may benefit are identified through assessment data and consultation, and children move in and out of the groups as they require. There have already been clear improvements.
- Mrs Morrison has been upskilling to ensure that this can continue into the future.

Communication

- We will be getting a school twitter account after the Christmas break.
- It was felt that this would enable us to share the fantastic work going on at Culross which is not currently being shared with the wider world.

Projects

- Miss Donnelly and the P1/2 class are currently working on the Nativity which will be filmed and available for parents to view on Monday 20th Dec.
- Next term P3/4 will start a project on Culross and will compare with a village in China.
- P5-7 have been working on Climate Ready Classroom as part of COP26. They had a great time connecting with classrooms in China, leading their experiences and learning. 10 schools in Scotland and China took part in the project which was shared with attendees at COP26.
- The Climate Ready Classroom model will be used with P3/4 next year.
- P5-7 have also connected with Torryburn Primary with a number of climate change challenges and we are to use new video conferencing technology available to the school.
- Mr Knussen has been spending time with the children, working on improving ICT skills using Bandlab, Pivot, Paint etc.
- The school is continuing to invest in technology. We have purchased a 72" TV which will be used in the hall for video call, class video etc.
- There are also 12 laptops on order which will hopefully be arriving in January.

Christmas Plans

- Christmas Jumper day was last Friday and the children are allowed to wear something Christmassy until the Christmas holidays.
- Christmas lunch in on Friday 17th Dec with cracker provided by the PTA
- Christmas Parties
 - P1/2 Monday 20th Dec
 - P3/4 Friday 17th Dec

- P5-7 Tues 21st Dec
- There is will a virtual Panto in Tuesday, kindly paid for by the PTA
- We will have a fun day on the last day of term with a DVD and games.
- The school hall is looking fantastic with the windows painted with Christmas scenes, huge thank you to Elizabeth who kindly does this for us every year.
- As we have been unable to hold the annual Christmas Fayre again this year, the children have created a book of their poems, which have been sold to friends and family. It has been a great success with 80 books ordered in total which will provide extra funds for the school.

Treasurers Update (Lesley)

- 2019/20 accounts have been signed off
- Due to current circumstances, there have not been any income or expenditure
- Currently a balance of £3,417.58
- Recent expenditures have been
 - Christmas Crackers £20
 - Virtual Panto/Snacks £120
 - Gambling Licence £30

PTA Update (Kay)

- PTA would normally be preparing for Christmas fair, which will not be going ahead this year due to current restrictions
- We have run the Christmas Bonus Ball again this year, as last year was such a success. We were hoping to increase the circulation to the wider village by having a stall at the village Christmas Market, but unfortunately due to weather conditions this had to be cancelled.
- We have still managed to generate £795 income, which after paying the prize money out to the winners, will provide the school with approx £400.
- It was agreed that the PTA will fund the P7 leavers hoodies x 6 this year.
- Easyfundraising was discussed as another option to generate funds for the school. Friends and family register and when they make purchases with particular online shops a percentage goes directly to the PTA bank account. Kay and Kerry to look into this.

AOB

- Information has recently been sent out to parents encouraging them to register for the Council's Parent Portal. It is planned that this will be used for reporting absence, ipay for school dinners and trips, school reports etc.
- During this difficult period of change due to Covid, the meeting wanted to ensure that the staff are taking care of their wellbeing and health. Mr Wilson said that the staff at Culross are a very close team and are making sure that they look out for each other and take time to talk. The parents wanted to pass on their thanks for all the hard work and commitment that the staff have shown this year and how much it is appreciated.

Date of Next Meeting : TBC