Largoward Parent Council Meeting

# Parent Council Meeting

**Date**: Monday 23 January 2023

**Time**: 18:30

**Location**: School

# In Attendance

Chris Law (Chairman), Adam Lawson, Donna Bain (Headteacher), Stuart Stenhouse (Secretary), Rebecca Murdoch (Treasurer), Jen Smith-Spiers

Apologies – Leanne Law

**Chairman’s Report**

Chris thanked everyone for the effort around the Christmas Fayre. ~£1,300 was raised in profits from the event and everyone agreed it was a great success. Thanks to all the staff, children and parents for your help plus all the donations from people and businesses.

**Secretary’s Report**

Previous minutes sent, a couple of follow-up actions are discussed in the sections below.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The check for £1,550 was written to Largoward school fund for the new Smart TV and handed over.

There have been issues with the bank in getting signatures transferred over. New forms have been completed to be returned.

The cash from the Christmas Fayre has been put in the back at the second attempt, Cupar branch doesn’t accept cash.

The balance (prior to the Smart TV donation) is £4,533.25 plus ~£45 in cash

# Headteacher Report

**Staffing Update and School Roll**

Sadly, Miss Taylor has resigned from her post as our school clerical assistant. Her last day will be Friday 3rd February. Miss Taylor will be greatly missed by all the staff and students. Mrs Shelly Stevens will be joining the Largoward team as clerical assistant from Monday 6th February.

Mr McKay will be absent for an extended period from the end of January. Alternative arrangements have been made for our janitorial and cleaning provision. Fife Council are unable to provide school crossing patrol cover for the school during Mr McKay’s absence. We will make parents and pupils aware of this and reinforce the message of the importance of crossing the road safely. Jen noted in the session that she would help the children cross the road when she was there.

Mrs Miller one of our pupils’ support assistants will also be absent for an extended period. Miss Clark has agreed to increase her hours to provide additional support during Mrs Miller’s absence so will be full-time

Applications for Primary 1 opened on the 9th of January. Prior to the session Mrs Bain had noted the school had not received any applications for P1 for August 2023. This was updated in the meeting that there had been three catchment area applications, but all had made placement requests to other schools.

It was discussed that one of the key reasons for this was the lack of wraparound care and those parents working in St Andrews or there are siblings there. Interest in setting up an after-school club in the village hall by a local resident had been mentioned to the school.

**Bikeability**

All pupils in P4-7 have now successfully completed their Level 1 & 2 bikeability. We will provide a refresher for the children next session to keep their skills up to date. A final ride for the P6-7 was held after to go on an extended trip.

**Christmas Concert**

A big thank you to the Parent Council for helping with refreshments at our festive concert. It was lovely to see so many members of the Largoward community in attendance at the church.

It was noted in the session how great it was.

**School Improvement Priorities**

Our school improvement plan can be viewed on the school website.

**Outdoor Learning Priority** – staff are beginning to engage with the draft learning progression. We will spend time on this at the February inset day and then trial between February and June.

**Digital Schools Award** – we are in the process of compiling our evidence SWAY and will be applying for accreditation later this term.

**Writing** – This will be a focus for staff in terms 3 and 4. We will be exploring improvement methodologies and carrying out small tests of change.

**1+2** – French – we will be working with staff and pupils to embed the language for everyday class routines during term 3. Staff are to be enrolled on an online BSL module to upskill. Pupils are having an input on BSL each week at assemblies.

The children are now practicing a new song in BSL – “Roar” by Katy Perry

**Excursions**

It was disappointing that our trip to the Byre Theatre was cancelled due to the snow. They have agreed to transfer our booking to next Christmas. We are currently looking for an alternative theatre experience for the children to compensate for the cancelled pantomime. We also have an excursion booked to Falkland Palace on Tuesday 7th March which links to the classes’ current historical topic.

Stuart reminded that the Salt Company has offered a few visits for the children if travel could be arranged

**Attainment Update – January 2023**

Current attainment based on most recent teacher projections:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Stage: | Listening & Talking | Reading | Writing | Maths |
| P1-7 | 68.4% | 78.9% | 63.2% | 68.4% |
| Stretch Target | 73.8% | 73.8% | 73.8% | 78.4% |

In the areas where we are not meeting our stretch targets, we need 2/3 pupils to improve their projected levels, and this will allow us to meet our stretch targets. Between now and the summer we will be focusing on this.

A further discussion was held on this and Mrs Bain explained that the lower % numbers are due primarily to the small number of children in the school, so the metrics look tough on smaller schools. They also don’t highlight any children that may have additional support needs.

P4 and P7 pupils are currently completing their National Standardised Assessments. The results from the assessments will also be analysed to inform future learning and teaching for the pupils.

Mrs Bain confirmed that if you would like to see your child’s results then just ask the school and these will be shared.

**Parental Engagement**

**Open Afternoon** – Our next open afternoon is scheduled for Friday 17th March 2-3pm. We look forward to seeing parents then.

**Parent Teacher Interviews –** our second set of parent teacher interviews are scheduled for 21st and 23rd of March. The school office will be in contact closer to these dates to schedule your 10-minute appointment with the class teacher.

**Attendance Monitoring** – attendance monitoring of term 2 has been completed. If your child’s attendance has fallen below 90% then you will have received communication from the school offering support to look at how this can be improved. We appreciate that last term there was a lot of illness and bugs circulating but we want to ensure that pupils are attending school at all times when they are fit and well to do so.

**Parent Volunteers –** there are two different types of ways that parents can volunteer to support the school. This can be ad hoc when needed to help on trips and events or it can be more frequent and support learning within the school e.g. helping with reading groups, etc. If parent volunteers wish to volunteer on a regular basis, then a Fife Council volunteering form must be completed, and a meeting held with the head teacher to discuss the role of the volunteer in the school. Regular parent volunteers would also need a PVG which the school would organise. Child protection training would also be provided to all frequent volunteers. We would be keen to work with the parent council to look at how best to recruit volunteers from our parent body.

A discussion was held on potential ideas including music, helping in the garden and reading. It was confirmed that this doesn’t have to be fully regularly – please speak with the school if interested.

**Industrial action** – It was mentioned in the session that the next expected dates are 28 Feb & 1 March with further potential dates in April

**Homework and Learning Overviews – Term 3**

The homework grids and learning overviews for this term were shared on Monday 16th January. All homework grids and learning overviews can be accessed on the school website. Learning overviews will also be emailed to parents and homework grids uploaded onto class team pages.

**P7 Residential**

We are in the process of exploring quotes for the P7 residential next session. We are hoping to finalise our booking and share information with our current P6 parents by March. We are planning to book for September, but more information will follow once all arrangements are finalized.

The PTC donated £50/head last year to cover costs and expects to do the same

**Lawhead Events**

The PTC at Lawhead have invited the Largoward children to attend a couple of events. These are a Family movie night in February and their Easter disco – more information to follow.

# Other Items

# Easter Egg hunt

Volunteers were sought to help with the Easter Egg hunt this year, Jen offered to help set this up, with support from Kate/Leanne depending on availability. The date for this was agreed as Tuesday 28 March. Likely to be around 1pm.

# School Garden

It was discussed about supporting with the garden. An idea was raised to do this in the easter holidays with parents/children. Mrs Bain is going to work with the children to get a list of things needing done and a date will be arranged at the next meeting.

Adam has two troughs that he is going to donate to the school. These can be painted and replace the wooden planters out the front.

# External visitors

Mrs Bain updated that there were a couple of external groups coming to the school. This included the youth music initiative on Jan 30 who were writing a song and filming a music video with the children. Mr Greenall has been doing a lot of music with the children. Offers for instrument donations were discussed. To confirm if these are required.

Fife College are also going to visit again on STEM work. Previously they made windmills with the children, the next activity is Robot wards.

Stuart flagged a potential visit from a local piper who has been visiting schools discussing Scottish topics.

# Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed to be Monday 20 March. In follow-up discussions this was requested to change to Tuesday 21 at 6.30 pm.

ACTION Stuart to follow-up and confirm.