Largoward Parent Council Meeting

# Parent Council Meeting

**Date**: Tuesday 21 March 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 brought up the topic of comic relief, was another good activity for the school and Mrs Bain covered in her update.

Chris raised the comment around potential external volunteers to support learning with a contact who could do costume making.

In the discussion, Mrs Bain also noted that the Lawhead PTC have arranged a directory of parent’s jobs which can be used to highlight skills. Potential for this to be expanded.

Rebecca highlighted that her Data could provide some science, Jen noted that Nick could potentially do some outdoor tiems.

**Secretary’s Report**

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

**Treasurer’s Report**

Current balance is £3,180.10.

The bank forms are still being processed to transfer signatures.

Cheques were distributed for cost associated with Easter and Christmas. Chris highlighted there may be a couple more to follow.

Question on the upcoming payments for P7 end of term trip, this was previously to replace the residential which were cancelled. To be confirmed but unlikely this will be required.

Leaver’s hoodies will need to be ordered, this should be discussed at next meeting but need to contact Vicky to see about the supplier.

# Headteacher Report

**Staffing Update and School Roll**

We have received five applications for Primary 1 starting in August 2023 but four have made placing requests to other schools. Currently it is looking like we will only have one P1 pupil starting in August. This would take our projected school roll for Session 2023-24 to 17 pupils and based on this number we would return to a single P1-7 class.

Mrs Stewart has settled in well to her new role as school clerical and we are happy to welcome back Mrs Miller this week. We are still waiting to hear when Mr McKay will return following his operation.

Mrs Bain noted the potential for a probationer to be resourced that she is looking into and explained the process and complexities around this and timings which may go into June. Ms Lloyd has agreed to support should this happen

She also gave more information around how the placing requests for children work to highlight the rationale and steps for approval, appeal or how they could potentially increase the numbers here.

Currently the staffing is likely to be Ms Lloyd and Ms Morrow with NCT cover.

**Industrial Action**

Teaching unions have agreed to a revised pay offer and all planned industrial action has now been cancelled.

**Excursion**

The children enjoyed a trip to Falkland Palace on 7th March as part of their current historical topic work.

**Health and Wellbeing Survey**

All pupils in P5-7 will be completing an online wellbeing survey this week. All pupils in P5-s6 in Fife will complete the survey. A letter was sent to parents explaining the purpose of the survey and how the survey would be administered.

**Parental Engagement**

**Open Afternoon** – Our open afternoon was well attended on Friday 17th March and we managed to raise some money for Comic Relief as well.

**Parent Teacher Interviews –** These were scheduled for Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd March. Our support for learning teacher was also available on the Tuesday evening for anyone wishing to discuss the support needs of their child.

**French Phrases of the Week** – In order to embed routine French vocabulary, we are focusing on two phrases every week. These will be shared in the newsletter and we would love for parents to try using the phrases at home as well.

**End of Session Reports** – these will be issued to parents on Friday 17th June

**P7 Transition to S1** – our P7’s will have additional visits to Madras on 25th April, 9th May and 23rd May in the afternoons and be accompanied to/from the high school by Mrs Simpson or Mrs Bain. They will then have their 3-day visit on 13th-15th June.

**Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy**

The current relationships and behaviour policy is due for update - [Behaviour-policy-2020-23.doc (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fblogs.glowscotland.org.uk%2Ffi%2Fpublic%2Flargowardps%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F12647%2F2023%2F02%2F24101958%2FBehaviour-policy-2020-23.doc&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

Since this document was created there have been many changes including a change to the definition of bullying, an increased focus on behaviour and relationships in school due to the impact of the pandemic/other factors and a change to the professional standards for teachers. Fife Council produced guidance in September 2022 on how to promote positive relationships and behaviour in schools that should under pin all policy development.

The yellow/red card system was re-introduced last month in order to support a reduction in low level disruptive behaviour across the school and to ensure a consistent approach and expectations. This system is under regular review and evolving.

Mrs Bain will share the template for a revised positive relationship and behaviour policy and would like to get feedback from parents at the Parent Council meeting on what should be in the policy. Pupils and staff will also contribute and a draft policy should be in place for next term. There was a discussion around all the roles expected to see in this by the group.

Our school anti-bullying policy would then require review (possible agenda item for next Parent Council agenda).

This was the main topic of the agenda as Mrs Bain walked through the rationale, learnings and approach for this. It was agreed that there will take time to embed and evolve to a constant state. Key outcomes are for parents to be informed of when and why children receive red-cards so they can support. Mrs Bain also shared the approach for intervention and how additional support/networks/resources are used. This included awareness of reporting acts of violence.

ACTION for next agenda is to cover the anti-bullying policy.

# Other Items

# Easter Egg hunt

The easter-egg hunt was organized and ran on the last week of term. The children all enjoyed this activity.

# School Garden

The PTC arranged a garden tidy during the Easter break. A number of tasks which had been identified by the children were completed. This included moving the wooden planters from the front, replacing and planning with troughs, weeding, planting bulbs, planting/moving the tree, leveling and general tidy. There were also some additional items done including replacing of edging for the paths.

Follow-up dates to be arranged to complete the remaining tasks when the weather is better and more time available for larger jobs. This includes the installation of a bike-rack, paining/repair of wooden structures

We are still looking for support to source materials including gravel and grass-seed.

Jody has a greenhouse that she can provide to the school.

All are welcome to get involved.

# Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed to be Monday 8 May at 6.30 pm. However owing to the additional holiday, suggest this be Tuesday 9th.

ACTION Stuart to follow-up and confirm date/agenda.