Largoward Parent Council Meeting

# Parent Council Meeting

**Date**: Tuesday 21 November 2023

**Time**: 18:00

**Location**: School

# In Attendance

Chris (Chairman), Donna Bain (Headteacher), Stuart (Secretary), Rebecca (Treasurer),

Apologies – Leanne, Adam, Jen, Jodie

**Chairman’s Report**

Nothing to update, key discussion points in later topics.

**Secretary’s Report**

Notes have been shared.

Actions from last week included in treasurer update and Christmas events.

**Treasurer’s Report**

All cheques provided to school to cover natural connections, STEM learning resources and school residential.

# Headteacher Report

**Staffing Update and School Roll**

It has been lovely to welcome Mrs. Marwood to the Largoward team. There have been some changes to working days as follows:

Monday: Miss Morrow, Miss Clark, Mrs. Martin

Tuesday: Miss Morrow, Mrs. Macmillan, Miss Clark (Mrs. Bain’s regular day at Largoward)

Wednesday: Miss Morrow, Miss Clark, Mrs. Martin

Thursday: Mrs. Marwood, Miss Clark (Mrs. Bain’s regular day at Largoward)

Friday: Mrs. Marwood, Mrs. Macmillan, Miss Clark, Mrs. Martin

In the meeting, it was also confirmed that two new children have joined in P3/P5. This was great to see the additional pupils add to the school. It will however be likely that the school will remain at one class next year, which provides some level of consistency and a clear expectation on structure for all. Currently the roll is 17, with three primary 7’s leaving in the summer and 1 known new P1 starting.

**Remembrance – 9th November**

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for our Remembrance Assembly. The children did a fantastic job. Around £20 was raised for charity.

It was noted in the session how good the assembly was and how well the children/staff did to put this on.

**Inset Day – 10th November.**

The staff had a very productive day with all staff based at Lawhead.

Mrs Bain shared further information in regard to the staff focus for the day in the meeting. This included an opportunity to speak with all the PSAs at one time which raised some great ideas for learning. Further ideas were also discussed around the school garden (noted later)

The staff also took the time to progress learning on Digital training, BSL and French. In addition, planning was done for next term.

**Open Afternoon**

Our promoting positive relationships policy was launched at the end of last session and thank you. The open afternoon on Friday 17th November 2-3pm coincided with Children in Need. A lot of parents and carers were in school to participate in learning and activities with their child. A further £20 was raised for charity.

It was acknowledged in the meeting again the positive experience.

**LEANS**

The pupils are about to start work on a project called LEANS – this focuses on helping children to understand neurodiversity. Parents can follow this link to find out more <https://www.ed.ac.uk/salvesen-research/leans>

A letter has been shared with parents explaining this project further. As we move through the different units of study, we plan to share updates with parents to support conversations at home. Mrs. Macmillan will also be developing a page on our school website that parents can access if they wish to learn more about the different aspects of neurodiversity.

**Anti-Bullying Policy**

The draft policy was shared in advance of the meeting on 21.11.23 to allow everyone to read it through.

Later in the session, the group took time to read the policy and provided some comments/feedback for inclusion prior to publishing.

**Natural Connections**

Mrs Bain and Mrs. Marwood met with Tony Credland from Natural Connections last week. We have now registered all pupils for either foundation or Level 1. Resources are soon to be delivered. Moving into Term 3 we are looking to timetable longer chunks of time to allow the children to bank up the hours needed to achieve their awards. We need to look at how we can manage transportation in order to allow the children access to natural environments out with Largoward and identify suitable locations within the village. I will share further details on what is involved in achieving foundation and Level 1 when we meet.

It was discussed in the session the potential use of the Flexi-bus to support pupil transport as a whole group to locations. The public bus was also mentioned.

**Important Dates This Term**

Saturday 2nd December – Christmas Fair

Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 15th December – Christmas Party

Tuesday 19th December – Christmas Concert – Village Church – 6pm

Wednesday 20th December – Byre Theatre Pantomime – AM

**P7 National Standardised Assessments**

This month our P7 pupils will be completing their National Standardised Assessments. I am happy to share the results of the assessments with parents and to discuss any questions parents may have. P4 pupils will undertake their NSAs in January/February.

**School Improvement Plan and PEF Interventions**

At the meeting, Mrs Bain updated the Parent Council on the progress being made against our two priorities and our numeracy PEF intervention. A lot has been accomplished so far this session and it was positive to hear progress. The Pupil Equity Fund is being prioritized around P6/7 math’s attainment.

There is also the re-establishment of the pupil leadership teams (including digital and sports)

The school has placed images of BSL around the building and will be including this as phrase of the week. Using French in assembly is also included.

A question around the monthly rewards was made, hot chocolate with Mrs Bain is continuing on a monthly basis.

# Other Items

# Christmas Fayre

Key discussion on the fayre items with a few actions:

We have a good number of prizes, with some to be confirmed and collected – Rebecca/Jen

Tables have all been sold (12 + kids)

Fliers are being distributed and posters put up.

Chris to contact Morrisons on potential hamper donation and to check if we can get mince pies or ideally selection boxes.

Selection boxes to be purchased.

Tea/coffee/juice/biscuits to be purchased (to also cover concert).

Chris to confirm what decorations (and tree) are available and confirm the internal lockbox code. Also, to bring water cannister for the day.

Mrs Bain to arrange for speaker and mic to be available for the day.

Further requests for donations of baking, bottles and chocolate/sweets.

Agreed that we will not be doing the additional games this year.

Raffle tickets and cards are available from last year for the tombola’s.

Ticket sales are unclear as limited returned so far but quite a few extra have been requested.

# Christmas Concert

It was confirmed that access has been made available for the children to get into the church for rehearsals in the week of the concert.

The PTC will provide refreshments on the night.

We look forward to seeing the performance!

# School Garden

There has been a lot of suggestions and great ideas from the PSAs on the school garden. A request was made for the Parent council to supply/purchase and fund a metal shed to store loose parts replacing the pixie hut which is damaged. (6 x 4 or 7 x 5).

Looking to get the men’s shed to help build a new mud kitchen.

Still looking to source logs for the fire pit area and the bike-rack to be collected and put in place.

Other play areas will also be designed and ideally created to put more structure round the garden and wooden areas along the wall.

Parent council to arrange a date in the new year to help complete some of these tasks.

# AOB

A question was raised around pupils missing PE this week. It was confirmed that this was the first know occasion where pupils have had to return to school from the hall due to a number of children being disruptive and the teacher making the decision due to safety. Pupils are regularly receiving PE either in-class, playground or at the hall depending on activities.

# Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed to be Tuesday 23 January at 6.00 pm.

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