Largoward Parent Council Meeting

# Parent Council Meeting

**Date**: Tuesday 22 October 2024

**Time**: 18:00

**Location**: School

# In Attendance

Chris Law (Chairman), Donna Bain (Headteacher), Stuart Stenhouse (Secretary)

Apologies

Adam Lawson

**Chairman’s Update**

No updates

**Secretary’s Report**

Nothing to add, notes shared from previous meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**

There is currently no treasured due to previously nominated person leaving the school and low numbers. We will need to resolve this at a further meeting. The statements are being forwarded to Stuart.

Mrs Bain asked if Mrs Steward could assist in contacting the bank to see what can be done about changing the account holder – Stuart to follow up.

Two cheques were issued to cover the raffle tickets (£27.50) and the residential (£143)

# Headteacher Report

**School Improvement Planning and Standards & Quality Report**

Our standards and quality report for 2023-24 and our school improvement plan for 2024-25 was published on 26th September. These documents can be viewed on the school website.

**Extended Learning Partnership**

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent discussion group. Below is a summary of the identified strengths and areas for development identified as part of the report.

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| Overall Strengths |
| *QI 1.3 Leadership of Change*  The school has effective systems and processes in place that has helped to ensure continuity of children’s experiences within the school over the past year (e.g. changes in the size of the school and staffing arrangements)  All children in focus groups were able to talk about the values and how they are applied within the day-to-day life of the school. Staff were able to describe how they ensure values are reinforced with children (e.g. through Shout-Outs and Restorative Conversation).  The school uses the information from data to inform strategic areas for improvement (Tracking Data, Glasgow Wellbeing Data) and impacts of this work can also be seen when scrutinising data.  There is an active Parent Council, which works in close partnership with the school. All parents are invited to attend.  School has been involved in leadership of the Children’s Rights Development within Fife, with pupils contributing to thinking about Calls to Action to build positive impacts on their communities (e.g. through local Elected Members).  The school is highly reflective about the unique characteristics of its context and size. There is recognition of the unique challenges and opportunities; this has led the school to look outwards to join the SEIC small school network and to partner with other schools in a similar context on shared-endeavours to work for improvement.  *QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment*  The selected focus group (3 children) were all able to talk about the positive impacts of access to 1:1 device on their learning across the curriculum, speaking particularly about the positive impact on writing (e.g. encouraging them to write more and the use of Clicker -Speech to Text).  All children who would benefit from digital supports have these clearly identified within their Summaries of Support.  In observed lessons there was clear use of differentiation to meet learners needs, with targeted adult support for learners.  The additional staffing within the school on a typical Tuesday is used to a) help to build children’s skills and b) their independent use of these skills across the school week. To further capitalise on this additional staffing the Headteacher uses Tuesdays to take a whole school assembly to enable teachers and PSA to meet for professional liaison and planning in order to best address children’s needs.  The whole team works very effectively to review children’s learning experiences and needs and to plan effectively for next steps and targeted supports.  *3.1 Improving wellbeing, equality and inclusion*  All children experience a learning environment which has been designed to meet their range of needs. This includes allocation of designated space for children to engage in Sensory Circuits, well-considered adaptations to meet the needs of the P1 child within the school, creating spaces for structured play across all year groups, good use of symbolised timetables, availability of Fix-it folders to engage children in restorative conversations at all levels, and suitable desk levels for all children, with clear sight-lines across spaces.  Summaries of Support and Child’s plans are in place for all children who require them and are regularly reviewed.  All parents in the focus group (3 out of 6 families) spoke very positively about the support for transition between P7 and S1 and the partnership with Lawhead Primary. There is also strong transition practice in terms of transition into Primary one, which are planned on a bespoke basis for individual children. Relationships between staff and parents are very positive with strong partnerships emerging.  *3.2* Raising Attainment and Achievement  The school has targeted work underway to raise attainment in writing, with support from the area’s Raising Attainment Principal teacher, underpinned by a clear line of assessment.  There is a clear and robust Quality Assurance Calendar in place, which is helping to secure progress in the quality and consistency of children’s experiences.  Effective tracking of children’s achievement enables the school to plan for any dips, ensuring opportunities for all (e.g. in partnership with the school’s Active Schools Coordinator). |
| Areas for Improvement and planned next steps |
| *QI 1.3 Leadership of Change*  Consider how to build children’s ability to talk about their own learning in terms of reflecting upon Strengths and Target Areas across the breadth of their learning.  Introduce Checking the Level and Learner Conversations work with children, starting with Numeracy.  Explore opportunities for children (e.g. House Captains, Pupil Council) to lead aspects of Assembly input (e.g. around the Wellbeing Indicators).  Continue to explore ways to capture Pupil Voice, particularly for children with Additional Support Needs.  *QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment*  The school will now work to implement Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy.  Continue to build consistency across implementation of the Four-Part model, thinking particularly about consistent use of the language of learning.  *QI 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion*  Explore approaches to including pupil voice in Summaries of Support and Child’s plans.  Continue to strengthen children’s knowledge and reflections about the Wellbeing Indicators and the Five Ways, perhaps exploring opportunities for children to lead on aspects of this, for example within Assembly Time. Link this work to the ongoing Rights Respecting Schools work.  QI 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement  Explore approaches to target setting and involving learners in dialogue in relation to their next steps.  Include learners in dialogue around how assessment information is used to inform decisions about their learning journey.  Take further action to achieve accreditation for the ongoing work of the school – eco flag, silver RRSA award, digital schools award. |

**Fundraising – Tesco Stronger Starts**

Voting has now closed and we are waiting to hear the outcome. Update is that Largoward came third and received £500.

**Dates For Your Diary – Term 2**

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| **October 2024** | 21st | * Start of term 2 |
| 22nd | * Parent council meeting |
| 29th | * Safer internet day |
| 30th | * Halloween Discos at Lawhead – see weekly newsletter for info |
| 31st | * Halloween party – PM – can come to school dressed up |
| **November 2024** | 1st | * Photographer and Sports Leader Training |
| w/b 4th | * P7 National standardised assessments over next 2 weeks |
| 15th | * Inset Day – school closed to pupils |
| w/b 11th | * Anti-bullying week |
| 29th | * Open afternoon – 2-3pm |
| **December 2024** | 7th | * Parent council Christmas Fair |
| 17th | * Christmas Concert – 6pm |
| 19th | * Byre theatre panto - AM |
| 20th | * Christmas Party – PM * Last day of term 2 – school closes at 3pm |

**Also**

29th October and 7th November – Madras welcome evening for P7 parents – see email from Madras

**Requests For Financial Support From the PC**

* Science – we are hoping to arrange for Edinburgh Science Centre to visit the school to carry out a workshop – the cost would be £190 – t.b.c
* Science – we are also exploring a potential trip to Dynamic Earth. C**ost later confirmed as £380 – Chris to issue cheque**
* Outdoor Learning – loose part play – we have been in touch with a group in Dundee who can source materials and deliver workshops. A full day workshop would be £320. For a small delivery cost they can deliver a range of play items at a very low cost. **This was confirmed later as £406.20 – Chris issued cheque**

These activities would be spread out across the next few terms. We would be very grateful if the PC could support with these activities that would enrich the learning for the children. If our Tesco grant is successful, we would use this to cover some of the loose part play materials costs as well. The Parent council agreed to cover these costs as hopefully will all be recouped from the Christmas fayre.

The shed roof was damaged during the storms at the weekend. If the PC could help with its repair this would be very much appreciated.

Thanks to Marc who fixed this for us!

# P7 Residential

The trip last month was a success and allowed the girls to make new friends and enjoy lots of outdoor challenges. Thank you to the Parent Council for their assistance in subsidizing the cost of this trip.

# Other Items

# Halloween Party

It was discussed that there was no need to help setup or provide anything for this. Chris was going to check if there are any decorations, Jen had dropped off some from previous year.

# Christmas Concert

Chris checked with Adam to confirm the school can have access to the church to measure the stage and for rehearsals in the week prior. It was also noted that the school have been quite detailed in their planning to accommodate the small numbers.

Parent council will organise refreshments.

# Christmas Fayre

Kate has confirmed there are around 40 great prizes collected for the raffle and now 8 tables sold.

Tickets and posters flyers have been printed – thanks to Mrs Stewart for her help here! Will ask for help to hand out flyers.

Several games have been organized

Chris to confirm Santa available.

Key outstanding items will be to source bottles/chocolates for the tombola’s and baking. Flyers and callouts to be made for this. Also selection boxes (waiting for cheap deal).

At next meeting arrange final pieces like refreshments.

# Community engagement

Given the numbers there was a question around how we can create more community engagement and promotion for the school.

Ideas that were going to be looked at included posting more on the community page of what the kids have been up to (potentially from pupil council). For the kids to attend the coffee mornings in the village hall, inviting people into the school for a coffee/cake/open day and inviting the local councilors to parent council meetings.

It was also discussed around being available for future P1 parents to meet children/parents. Noted that previously none of the catchment area parents came to visit when the option was there.

# Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed to be Tuesday 26 November at 6.00 pm.