

## **PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**PRESENT:** Douglas Crews, Abigail Govan, Stephen Humphries, Rhona Hynd, Alison Jennings, Alan McKay, Pauline Rae, Kelly O'Reilly, Sharon Saxton, Luisa Walker, Jennifer Wilkie

**APOLOGIES:** None received.

**ABSENT:** Anne-Marie Greer, Jo Reilly

### **1. Approval of Minutes from meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 & AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Both sets of minutes were approved.

### **2. Outstanding Issues from Previous Meeting**

**P7 Activities / Hoodies** – Hoodies have been arranged. Currently waiting on parents to confirm sizes and then we will order on Friday or early next week. Will cover activities during transition topic.

**Plastic Free Schools** – This is a national scheme which would allow the school to be recognised for the work they are doing towards being plastic free. Kelly will share the program information with the group to review and discuss at a future meeting.

**School App / Communication** – We had a previous discussion about a school app and some investigation was done but no decision was made and Covid has delayed efforts on this. Stephen will cover this topic later in the meeting.

### **3. Headteacher's Report**

#### **Covid / Return to School**

- Key Workers Children - Allocation of spaces was a difficult process as a lot of the government guidance was wider than the previous lockdown and elements were open to interpretation. We had to reject a number of applications. We have approx. 50 key worker children, usually 25-35 on any one day in bubbles of 10 with 1 teacher in a room.
- Teaching Staff – We are in close contact with all teachers. It is apparent it is more difficult for staff to work from home rather than in school, with the main issues being:
  - Access to resources which are readily available at school
  - Technology – hardware and connectivity
  - Homelife – like many families, staff have their own families to care for while homeworking
  - Keyworkers Rota – the majority of staff are in the school on a rota basis then have to catch up with their classwork another time.
- Online Learning - while we were trying to improve our interactions with pupils, which is key to ensure continued engagement, interactions can take many forms (not only live sessions). All the staff are at different stages in their learning and we are supporting them to find an approach that suits them to achieve key aspects of remote learning. We are focussed on ensuring all our children are:
  - Provided with appropriate activities and tasks to meet their learning needs
  - Given clear explanations and differentiated support material

- Encouraged & supported to submit their work, in order to be provided with clear and constructive feedback

These key elements allow teachers to assess engagement and progress in learning. We are also offering the whole school 3 story telling sessions and 1 assembly per week. We will continue to work with staff to develop approaches to enable as high-quality online learning as possible. Online learning requires pupil participation to allow for teacher assessment.

- Return to School
  - We are planning for P1-3 to return on 22<sup>nd</sup> February (contingent on case numbers). A final decision will be made next week.
  - Hopefully the older children will return shortly after.
  - School staff will be offered to do 2 lateral flow tests per week
  - We will be stressing the need]
  - to enforce social distancing, mask wearing etc... in the playground and minimise the number of parents/carers in the playground
- Douglas asked if we have any pupils who need support with technology? There is a local man refurbishing laptops who may be able to help. Stephen advised that the school was provided a number of Chromebooks, which have already been issued. We will do whatever we can, if there are any further needs identified.

### **P1 enrolment**

- Due to the pandemic this process was handled online. We have approximately 45 in catchment applications so far. The deadline is mid-February, and the placing request deadline is mid-March. We have previously had to turn away approx. 6 from the new Miller estate so far (which is in catchment now) as we are currently full.
- We should have more information on the number of applications end March to allow us to plan class structure, taking into consideration the completed 2-room extension.
- We will plan for a virtual transition for P1 pupils, similarly to what we did last year for the current P1 classes.

### **School Website**

The school were advised that the platform which hosts the school website will close in March. This took schools by surprise. The platform is being used extensively given the current situation. Therefore, we are looking to replace the current website on another platform before end March (currently looking at options).

Linking this back to communication, we will focus on getting the website sorted in the first instance before we look at a school app. We are currently juggling many platforms for communication – See-Saw, Teams, Website, Email – so will look to streamline our communications. The replacement website will be our first priority. It was noted that the new website should aim to consider the “3 click rule” and the compatibility with mobile devices.

### ***South East Improvement Collaborative Survey Results (added post meeting)***

*An online survey was sent to parents in December. This was not sent from the school but the South East Improvement Collaborative for purposes related to information gathering in the widest sense.*

*However, we were able to access the individual results for the school. From 78 responses the following scores were available:*

*Learning and teaching during disruption and recovery.*

*Good = 4*

*Very Good = 5*

*Excellent = 6*

*Parent / Carer score – 4.68*

Learner score – 5.29

Wellbeing during disruption and recovery

Good = 4

Very Good = 5

Excellent = 6

Parent / Carer score – 5.51

Learner score – 5.52

*A number of comments were made, mostly of a positive nature. There were a few highlighting inconsistencies of approach across the school and a couple to do with communication but in general they were very supportive.*

#### **4. School Extension Works**

The work on the school extension has been progressing well through lockdown, with some of the more intrusive work being completed while most pupils are out of school. It is beginning to take shape and is on track for completion, give or take 2 weeks.

#### **5. P7 Transition Plans**

All information has been shared with the high schools to try to form classes. However, any placing requests will not be known until after the Easter holidays so there is the usual concern for pupils who have made placing requests not knowing if they will get their place.

Proposed classes will be returned to the primary school for review.

P7a had a call with Mr. Buchanan (Depute Rector and responsible for P7 transition) in December. P7b missed this due to self-isolation. There will be a Teams meeting for P7b on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

At this stage, we don't know how the rest of the transition will look.

Stephen has a cluster meeting next week, where P7 transition is on the agenda and may be able to share more information as he receives it.

#### **6. Financial Update**

Kelly and Jenny have still to do a full handover.

Funds have been received for the Christmas Cards and the FRoMPS raffle. Good effort on the fundraising given the circumstances.

Money was spent on the Christmas Baubles, something that did appear to go down well with pupils.

Jenny and Pamela are the current signatories on the account. Due to Covid, this will continue until we can get this changed over to Kelly.

#### **7. FRoMPS Update**

No update, other than the financial update above.

#### **8. Gala Update**

No Update. Mrs Fyfe and Mrs Martin had offered to be our Gala representatives last year, which was sadly cancelled. No update as to whether or not they wish to continue.

## **9. Any Other Business**

**Meeting format** – once we are back to “normal” will we continue to meet via Zoom or meet in person? Sometimes online can be more accessible for people. We could consider, having some online and some in person. Something to consider in future.

**PTA / FROMPs Membership** – How can we encourage new members to the PTA & FROMPs? A number of members of the PTA (4) are parents of P7 pupils with no younger siblings at school. Having some meetings virtually may be seen as a positive for new members.

Previously, we traditionally have an information evening early in term 1, which we will look at running again whether virtually or in person. The information evening included representatives from FROMPs, Parent Council, Out of School Club etc... and was an opportunity for parents to learn more and sign up.

This is also something we can promote via new P1 parents during transition.

**Thank You Gifts:** Can we purchase a thank you gift for both Heather & Jenny? Alan proposed this and Kelly seconded. Luisa will discuss how we do this with Rhona & Kelly. We may need to finalise the transition of the Treasurer to Kelly so we avoid having Jenny arrange the reimbursement for her own gift.

**Recognition:** The school have received some less than positive feedback on the call outs via assembly for recognition stars. Stars are put forward by teachers and focus on effort as well as achievement. Sharon asked the parent council for their thoughts. The consensus of the parent council was that this was a positive thing for the children to be recognised for their efforts. It is also good for the children to see their peers getting recognised for their work.

## **10. Date of next Meeting(s)**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30pm