

Parent Council Virtual Meeting - 29th March 2022

Present – Sonia Gerrie, Amanda Buchan, Lisa Nicoll, Miss Inkson, Miss Smith, Alison Barclay, Wendy Fettes, Donna Shepherd, Pupil Representatives form P6/7

Apologies – Ashley Inglis

Agenda

- Pen Licence
- Wellbeing Ambassadors
- Banking Update
- Easter Fundraising Activity
- Newmill Association link
- AOB – Bikeability, P7 Hoodies, Cross Country
- Next Meeting

Pencil Licence

Miss Inkson has led an enquiry using the Pen Licence intervention to improve handwriting & presentation of work at Newmill Primary School. Miss Inkson was joined by pupils from class P6/7 to present the outcome & pupil views of the intervention. Powerpoint slides are attached below.

Pupils, teachers, and parents have reported that the Pen Licence has had a positive impact on handwriting and presentation. Pupils have responded well to this and challenged themselves to achieve the bronze, silver, and gold licences. The awards are made based on evidence of improvement of presentation and effort. To keep the Pen Licence running pupils have put forward a request to Parent Council to fund the pens used in class.

Action – The cost and decision to fund will be put forward to all parents in a vote on Microsoft Forms via school email.

Wellbeing Ambassadors

Pupils from P6/7 shared the newly developed leadership opportunity open to all P4-6 pupils. The pupils explained how the role was developed as part of a block of Health and Wellbeing lessons. The children in P6/7 set the criteria for the role and made the application forms. There will be many leadership opportunities as part of the Wellbeing Ambassador role including: buddy, playmaker leader, library helper, Lego club assistant. Other roles will be developed once the leaders have been appointed. Mrs Wright and P7 will be conducting interviews during the first week back. Learners also shared their latest idea following a Philosophy lesson on the 'Lost art of letter writing'. They connected letter writing with older generations and wanted to set up a connection with a care home to keep the fun of writing and receiving letters alive. Parents present then wondered about connecting with elderly residents in the local area too. The P6/7 class will start with care homes and RS will send a Microsoft form with an option to nominate a community member who may benefit from a letter, card or piece of artwork from the school to brighten their day. Miss Smith explained how much learners enjoyed the cards received from community members, at Christmas. It provided clear evidence of the impact of their kind words and actions. Mrs Wright and P6/7 will develop this.

Banking Update

Donna Shepherd, Alison Barclay and Amanda Buchan should now be signatories on old account. Alison Barclay is to check up on this during the holidays if possible.

When this has been confirmed there will be a switch made to a new account at the Clydesdale bank. At this point the accounts will be accessible online by the signatories of the new account – Alison Barclay, Stuart Minnis and Donna Shepherd. This will make the account more accessible to the parent council. Having a branch in Keith is also beneficial for cash transactions.

Consensus during meeting that it should be noted in the constitution or in another document that the address of the Parent Council bank account should always remain at Newmill Primary School.

Action – Stuart to send photo ID to Alison. Alison oversees the switch to new account. Donna to follow up on banking procedure documentation.

Easter Hunt

Ashley Inglis has organised an Easter Hunt in the village & sourced prizes. Proceeds from this will be donated to the parent council fund. The event will run during the Easter holidays. Answer sheets are to be made available at the school, playgroup and Newmill shop for £1.

Newmill Community Association

George Gartly has approached PC with the offer of help and support for future funding requests in the village. It is hoped that a meeting will take place soon to find out more. Donna to arrange meeting with representatives from the school, nursery, and community.

AOB

Opportunities for Bikeability were discussed.

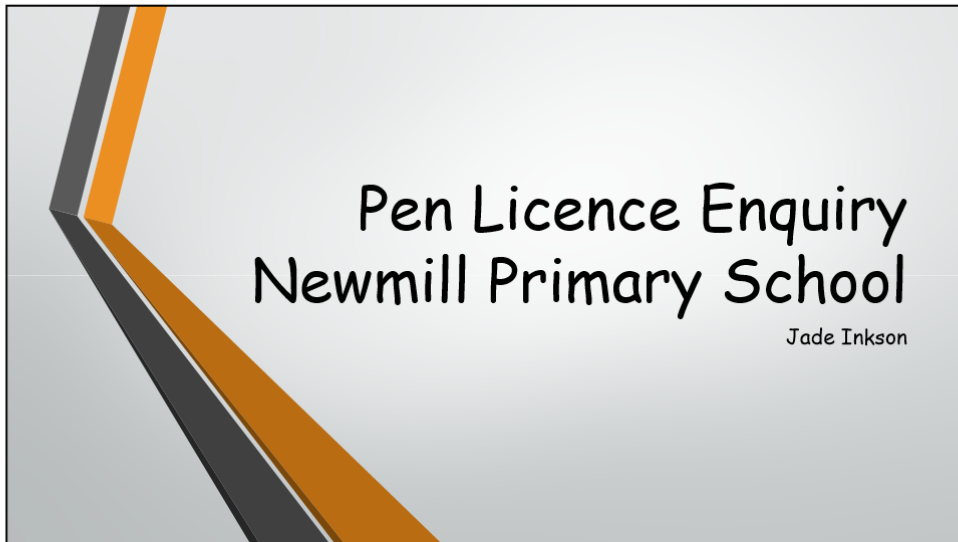
P7 Hoodies - It was agreed by parental vote that P7 hoodies to be funded by PC this year. Miss Smith to forward cost to treasurer.

Active Schools Cross Country

As the first event representing Newmill Primary School since covid, it is important for PC to hear feedback from parents. Thank you to those parents who have already been in touch. This is an Active Schools event which takes place at the weekend rather than during school time. For considerations to be made on how to best approach this event in future, the PC would welcome any feedback or suggestions.

Next Meeting- Tuesday 3rd May at 6pm.

- Transition event and PC Involvement.
- Update from Newmill Community Association meeting.
- Banking
- Summer term events including sports day arrangements and Ice Cream van. Alison to contact before the meeting for estimate cost and availability.



1

Cursive Writing
Pattern Book
Gr. 2 _____

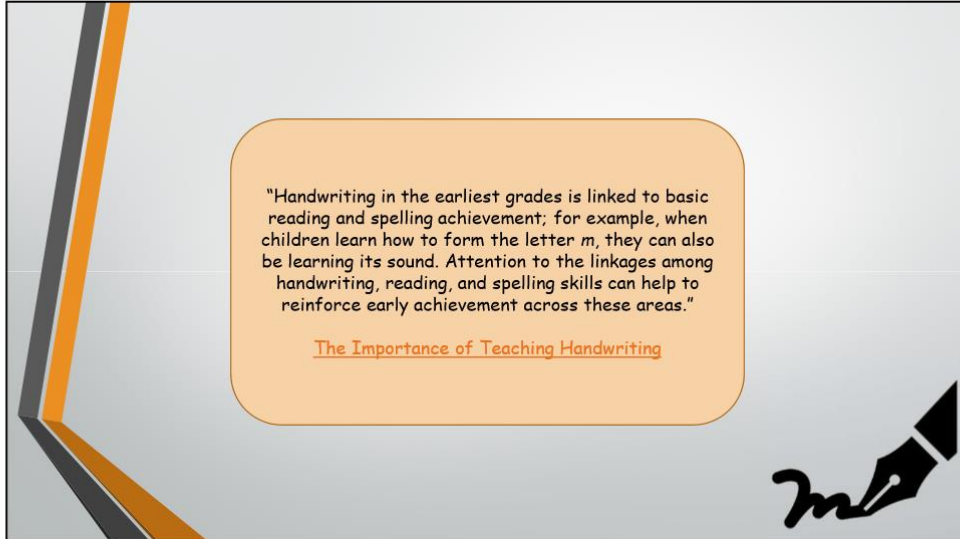
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Handwriting fluency and legibility was identified as a Newmill Primary School improvement area.

Other handwriting interventions have been used with some pupils in the past and did make an improvement. [Intervention Programme](#) (Mason Joanne (RJC) Occupational Therapist Swark-FT, Handwriting- fluency 2016)

However, P6/7 pupils decided that they would like to trial a pen licence intervention to improve identified problems but also pride in work, confidence and jotter presentation.

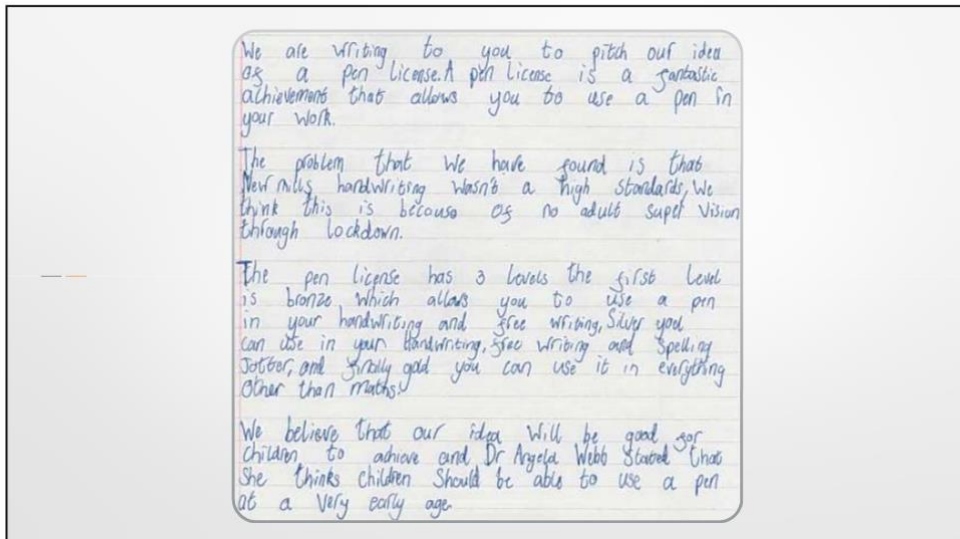
2



"Handwriting in the earliest grades is linked to basic reading and spelling achievement; for example, when children learn how to form the letter m, they can also be learning its sound. Attention to the linkages among handwriting, reading, and spelling skills can help to reinforce early achievement across these areas."

The Importance of Teaching Handwriting

3



We are writing to you to pitch our idea as a pen license. A pen license is a fantastic achievement that allows you to use a pen in your work.

The problem that we have found is that New m115 handwriting wasn't a high standard, we think this is because of no adult supervision through lockdown.

The pen license has 3 levels the first level is bronze which allows you to use a pen in your handwriting and free writing, Silver you can use in your handwriting, free writing and spelling, and finally gold you can use it in everything other than maths!

We believe that our idea will be good for children to achieve and Dr Angela Webb stated that she thinks children should be able to use a pen at a very early age.

4

S
M
A
R
T

T Time Based

R Achievements

A Attainable

M Measurable

S Specific

The pen licence

- Whole school initiative
- 3 levels (bronze, silver and gold)
- Success Criteria to achieve a pen licence is well presented work, remembering to write the date and title, use a ruler when required and to take pride in tidy jotters and neat handwriting.
- Bronze - I can use a pen for daily handwriting
- Silver - I can use a pen for handwriting, spelling and daily 5
- Gold - I can use a pen for all tasks except number work

PEN LICENCE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

Name: _____

Has successfully been consistent with neat and joined handwriting. Such outstanding efforts have awarded with an official PEN LICENCE!

Awarded to: _____ Valid for: _____

Handwriting

5

The evidence

Do you like the pen licences? Why?

- "I like pen licences because I think they help us prepare for the Grammar school."
- "I think pen licences encourage us to work harder"
- "I like pen licences because it makes you stop and think about how to spell a word" it's permanent so you don't want to guess

Do you think pen licences improve handwriting and pride in work?

- "Yes it helps you take pride in your work, and no one wants it taken away"
- "Yes because I want a silver pen licence and I'm trying hard to get it by always having a title, present work correctly and have neat handwriting"

Would you like to see pen licences continued and available to the whole school?

- "Yes pen licences should be continued because hard work should be recognised"

Parents have also given feedback during parent calls, reporting that children are excited to earn a pen licence and some have even shown the improvement in their handwriting and presentation of work.

6

Do we need internet access in the same way that we need human rights. Some people believe that to be able to survive in the 21st century the internet is crucial. The other people say that the internet is not needed in our lives.

For education some people believe education is more important than the internet, because you can have a business and communicate with people by the internet. You can speak to someone like like you can want the internet. People are have a disability and the can art that show delivered.

People have great art. A lot of artists have different techniques to create very different pieces of art. Some look good, some look strange but some look bad. Like some look like the artists.

Vincent van Gogh is famous for stars, night he used complementary colors to make it look better and stand out. Most people think his paintings are real life paintings.

Some people does abstract work. He made the looking like it is abstract it looks strange. It looks like her face is melting. depression. He is known for his art techniques.

7

In 1314 the Scottish army fought for the English army's castle in Stirling. Robert the Bruce had been 1 day and we haven't fought we need our castle back after that they were getting ready to fight.

Early in the morning the battle began. The English had 3 times more men. But Bruce was waiting for the English to charge. The Scottish army were waiting for the English to charge. The Scottish army were waiting for the English to charge. The Scottish army were waiting for the English to charge. The Scottish army were waiting for the English to charge.

Billy Bob got a punishment that he had to go into the deep dark forbidden forest and he had to find out why the Vikings kept dying. He was cold, scared and really creeped out by seeing all the dead Vikings. When he went so far in he kept seeing wild animals. It got so dark that he had to sleep in a cave and then he saw a massive spider eat a Viking. He was devastated and wished he never went out at night. Guess what he did next? He follows the massive spider into a cave he was so scared. Then he found a dead Viking.

8

The ask

1 box of 36 Papermate pens costs £35.71 and we want to be able to offer pens to all 65 pupils in the school when they achieve their pen licence. Pens quickly run out of ink when being used everyday and the occasional one gets lost or breaks.

We would like to ask the council if you would please consider funding the pen licence initiative and buy the school some pens? They would be greatly appreciated.



