**Kildrum Primary School**

2019

**Parent Council**

(Virtual) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 5th of October 2022.

**Present (via Microsoft Teams):**

**PC Representatives**

Jennie McGregor (Chairperson), Gemma Acreman (Secretary) Pamela Alexander, Jemma Carlton (Treasurer), and Gillian Studrud (Vice Chair), Katie McNaught, Lyndsey Woods and Sonia Chiazor.

**School Representatives**

Kate Watt, Headteacher.

**Apologies:**

Katie McDade.

Welcome, & introductions to new members Kate, Lyndsey, and Sonia.

**School Update – from Kate Watt, Headteacher**

Good first term and nice to get back and feel pretty normal with no restrictions, although still covid aware.

12 classes this year which is 1 more than last year. However, the role has dropped. The school has been able to buy in new staff to make classes smaller. We’re able to bring in other teachers throughout the week to assist. This is a new way of running things called a Cluster Approach. This means that staff are allocated across the 5 Primaries that feed into the Academy. There are 3 Teachers:

Scottish Attainment Teacher – There to assist any children who may be at risk of underachieving.

Cluster Support Teacher – There to bring additional support to small groups, in literacy and numeracy.

Cluster Resource Teacher – There to assist by providing additional support to classes who may who multiple numeracy groups and provide relief to the teacher so they can give more attention to their groups.

Timetables are now up and running between the cluster schools and it is looking really good at the moment.

The open afternoon was successful. More parents/caregivers attended than ever before and the children were really excited. It was a lovely atmosphere.

The Harvest Celebration was today and was also really good. Having been unable to do this for a couple of year it was great to have Grandparents and Great Grandparents in attendance, who left lots of lovely comments in the visitor book.

Primary 5’s have their first class assembly on the next Monday coming, then the rest of the classes will follow shortly after.

Class workshop dates will be released soon.

There is a Fundraiser on Friday, 7th of October. Details of this are in the emails. The children are still going to participate even if it rains. Parents are advised to send children with a change of clothing – right down to the pants!

* **School improvement plan**

The 3 Priorities this year are:

Numeracy

School looking to change resource for this to help bring up the children’s levels. Unfortunately, there are a larger number of children not achieving their potential. However, school are looking at ways to improve, including staff training and resources.

Health & Wellbeing

Following on from last term, there will be a section on bullying. The school found that, from last terms Parent Questionnaire, this was a concern with parents. This is not a huge number of parents but it is substantial enough. At the being of terms, teachers will do a block on this, to help with relationships and bring down any parental concerns.

Digital Technology

This is permanently on the improvement plan given the consistent changes in technology. Every class now has an iPad – with every class having at least 10. All Primary 6/7’s have one each. Staff are finding this really useful, and children have much better access. The internet can be dodgy at times, but bandwidth has been increased. Staff are receiving training and school are using technology to the best ability they can.

More on the improvement plans:

Kate attended the Routes of Empathy 3 day training course which will shortly roll out for P6’s. These lessons will have a Mum/Dad attend with their baby so the children can observe the baby’s emotions. This is designed to help with bullying and improve relationships. Jemma has worked with this in her school and reports it to be really successful and to have a calming effect on the children.

Mrs Watt may reach out to the PCA for feedback on this.

**Financial Report**

Not much movement since last meeting.

We have received payments from the NL Lottery – averaging about £45 per calendar month.

Current balance is £1065.70.

Issue with cheque for the Autograph books was raised. However, after checking with bank, this had been paid and is fully resolved. We were later this year in ordering which is likely the cause of any issue.

**Disco**

First disco of the year will take place on Thursday, 27th of October – our Halloween disco. Behind the scenes, we have been working hard on this. Katie McDade took the lead on this but unfortunately was unable to attend tonight. Pamela has purchased the sweets, juice, and cups and will liaise with Jennie/Jemma, re. cheque to sign. Katie and Gemma are working together to organise new decorations as we are unable to locate previous decoration. Gemma will attend on day to decorated – and other PCA members to also attend.

Letter will be emailed out to parents this week looking for volunteers to assist on the evening. A link will be on this email and any volunteers are welcome and much appreciated. Senior staff and teachers will also be in attendance.

Duties for helpers are as follows:

* Arrive 30 min before disco to set up tables, class lists, water tanks, jugs and bring sweets/juice out.
* Collect in cash. Count cash after each disco (to be done in twos)
* Pay DJ
* Children are given 1 chocolate 1 sweet and a drink during the break. (Children should be allowed to access a drink when required.)
* Clear away remaining drinks between discos. Clean any spills and bin any litter.
* **For safety –** children should not be running or doing anything dangerous such as climbing. Children should not be standing or sitting on the stage. No drinks should be on the stage.
* In twos, keep an eye on the toilet corridor.
* All children must be signed in and out of the school and a contact telephone number left in case of emergency.
* After the disco, tables, water tank, jugs, sweets etc all to be cleared away. Sweep floor if required.
* All money to be kept in safe overnight and two parent council members to bank asap.

**Christmas Cards**

Gillian has taken the lead on this. Design packs have arrived and are all put together and made up into packs. Gillian has dropped these at the school and they are due to come home with the kids just before they finish for October break. All information will be available in packs and children will be given some extra time to return them following the return to school. Gillian will not be able to collect packs but PCA will organise an alternative person via their PCA group chat. (Gemma, Kate and Lyndsey are available on various days.) It is a huge undertaking but worth it and fun!

Order to be with IQ Cards by 8th November and will be return to the children/parents on 9th December.

**NL Community Lottery**

Since it was launched earlier this year, we have had 36 over all supporters and was quite popular but has waned off a little. PCA to push promotion again, with new flyers – and introduce it to the new parents as well as existing. To date, the lottery has raised £190 for the school, with the potential to do really well and help out. Promotional material to be updated and Kate includes into email correspondence.

**Road Markings**

North Lanarkshire Council are currently in the middle of a project to make roads surrounding schools safer – this would take into consideration Ellisland Road. They are looking to install road marking to restrict parking access. If they pursue this, it will be formally advertised. However, residents appear keen on this.

**Any other business**

If the teachers, across the UK, decide to strike parents will be given a length of time notice.

Jennie/Kate have not heard back from Gary Stark, re. £50k school improvement grant. This is to improve the fenced in area. To date, the council has helped with a shed, poly tunnels and a pergola. These are completed but the area is still not safely accessible for the children.

Jennie to reach out to Gary Stark for an update.

Kate, Lyndsey and Sonia to be added to the PCA WhatsApp Group chat.

Kate report P3’s had a great time at the BBC yesterday. 4 children participated in the new TV show and the rest of the children attended in audience. This will air sometime in January and the school will arrange for a screening. It was a long day and the children were tired but had a great time.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Next Meeting Planned – TBC, however, unless needed will be January.

Minutes – Gemma Acreman.