Minutes Parent Council 28/10/19

**Attendance:** Lindsey Shah, Fiona Sufferedini, Katie Mcconnell, Claire Quinn, Caroline Black, Sarah Louise Bailey-Kelly, Tracy Ann Wilson, Evonne Smith, Charlie Smith, Nicola Ferguson.

**Apologies**: Lyndsey Robertson, Kirsty Tyrell, Alison Mcneil,

**Agenda:**

* **Parent Council members:**

Jacqueline has stepped down from the parent council and has requested that she is removed from the email list. This will be done asap.

* **Treasurers Update:**

There is no float tin held within the school and there hasn’t been one for approximately 3 years. Evonne will arrange to get one for the purpose of events etc. The funds are currently in the Parent Council account.

* **Head Teachers update:**

The school is currently busy organising the Christmas Nativity and the associated Christmas events for the children. All is going well although the election has obviously meant some alterations to setting up events etc.

The school app appears to be working well, parents will continue to be encouraged to download the app and this will be the main form of communication between the school and families. It was noted that some users are not getting push notifications which Nicola will check out but otherwise it appears to be an effective way of managing communications. The nursery will continue to use Learning Journal as well and an app for this is now available on android and apple.

Literacy: The school carried out a recent audit of novels within the school. Two years ago all novels for the p3 to p7 groups were replaced meaning that there were 30/40 novels available to pupils with 30 copies of each purchased. The recent audit identified that on average only 11/12 copies of each book remains. The school have had to reorder books to ensure children have the resources they need, the cost of replacing these books will amount to £4500 out of the school budget. The recent book amnesty resulted in only 3 books being returned. A current audit of p1 to p3 books is ongoing but the school are already aware that a number of these books are also missing.

Current financial situation: The school operates very efficiently however it is noted that the annual resource budget for the whole school is £6000 and the janitorial budget is £400 per annum which usually only lasts approximately 8 weeks and has to be topped up from other budgets. Replacing resources therefore has a significant impact on the school budget. The school is also in the process of replacing all of the schools smartboards. The current smartboards are 10 years old and parts and running costs are costly therefore the investment for all classrooms is financially worthwhile. Similarly the school is working on a STEM project for next year which will provide STEM bases within the school for all pupils. ICT also needs to be regularly updated and the aim for the next year is to replace the I PADS within the p1 and p2 classes as these are now outdated and not working effectively.

As a result of the additional inservice day this year the nursery will have a full day outing on the 9th Dec to ensure that all children receive their full funded hours for the year. The nursery children will attend Craigend Nursery where they will also be provided with lunch and will meet Santa. This means that Santa will not attend the nursery party however the children will have a full Christmas lunch on this day instead.

School lunches: The new menu is now up and running and is in line with the Scottish Government’s healthy eating agenda. It was raised that some children are complaining that they are not receiving what they requested. Nicola noted that this was unusual however she would check it out. It was acknowledged however that the menu has changed in that sometimes items are provided on their own rather than with accompaniments therefore children may just be adjusting to this. An example would be that burgers are not served with chips etc. Juice is no longer provided and ham will no longer be on the menu. This is a North Lanarkshire wide menu.

* **Nursery provision:**

Nicola advised that there is no current update on what the 2020 nursery provision will be once the extended hours are introduced. Claire noted that local childminders who are applying to provide funded hours have met with North Lanarkshire Council and have been advised that there will be one nursery in each area in North Lanarkshire which will provide an AM/PM split provision however it is likely that all other nurseries will be providing a 9am to 3pm service. This will mean that parents who do not want their children to attend full days will have to reapply to the nursery providing a split placement and are unlikely to know the outcome of that application until May/June 2020. Which nursery will be providing what placements has not been confirmed by North Lanarkshire council and is unlikely to be confirmed for another couple of months. Parents wishing to use other childcare providers such as childminders alongside nursery should be aware that on the days that the nursery is closed for inservice etc childminders will not be able to claim funded hours if they are caring for the children instead and that this will mean parents have to pay for those hours.

The parent council raised concern that while Woodlands has not been confirmed as a 9 to 3 nursery it appears highly likely that this will be the case. If a 9 to 3 provision is provided to all children this will significantly reduce the capacity of the nursery and will limit how many children are able to benefit from creating local links with the school prior to staring. Similarly the parent council noted that school nurseries are early years education facilities and not childcare facilities and that a 9 to 3 placement within a nursery such as this is a lot for children to cope with at such a young age. A number of parents on the parent council noted that they would not wish to place their children for full days and that the current 3 hour sessions were more beneficial. It was also noted that the proposed 9 to 3 placement does not provide suitable childcare for most working parents and is therefore not particularly helpful in terms of childcare. Given the concerns raised it was suggested by Claire that a canvassing of current parents needs and wishes for nursery placements may be beneficial. Nicola noted that as the proposed hours for the nursery haven’t been confirmed yet the school could not be involved in any such canvassing however recognised that the parent council were able to engage in this without involvement from the school. It was agreed that consideration would be given to this suggestion.

* **Events:**

**Christmas outfit swap shop.** This was deemed to be a success by all involved and further opportunity for parents to pick up Christmas clothes for their children will be provided at the school show on the 13th Dec. It was also agreed that further events such as this will be considered for later in the year.

**Book tokens:** There are two weeks left to hand in SUN book tokens, there has not been a great response to this however given the current level of need within the school parents are encouraged to hand these in as soon as possible.Post boxes remain available at the school entrance and the nursery.

**Christmas show raffle:**

A number of raffle prizes have already been secured and parent council members are continuing to seek out prizes. Parents will be encouraged to offer any possible raffle prizes. There was discussion around whether a more substantial prize should be purchased for the raffle to encourage involvement however it was decided that as there were already enough worthy prizes available. A list of prizes will be collated on Monday the 9th Dec and the school will notify parents via the app.

It was agreed that the following will be set up at the school show for parents: Christmas swap shop, raffle, guess the teacher game, bottled water stand. Tracey will purchase bottled water. It was agreed no other drinks will be provided due to the difficulty of cleaning the hall between shows and the short turn around time for the school to provide lunch etc.

The parent council will have access to the hall to set up from 8.45am on the 13th Dec, parent council members helping with the stalls can not reserve seats at the show unless they are with others who have queued. It was also agreed that the raffle will be drawn on the day and will be picked by children from the school picked by the staff. This will allow prizes to go home with people that day. Raffle tickets should have the child’s name and class on the back, no phone numbers should be gathered. A rota of who is helping at which show will be organised and circulated to parent council members.

**Next meeting: Monday 6th January 2.45pm**