

Braco School Parent Council

Monday 15th April 2019 6pm

at Braco Primary School

Attendance: Jo Speed (Chair), Fiona Kerr (Treasurer), Dominic Edward (Secretary), Susan Ross (Acting Head), Anna Black, Helena Carey, Claire Crossley-Bell, Becky Davidson & Sylvia Lauder.

Apologies:

1. Headteacher Report

Reporting – Following parent feedback, the school will be trying out a new school report format this term. This will include general information on work ethic, key strengths and next steps in literacy, numeracy and health/wellbeing. Feedback will be gathered from parents, pupils and staff.

Staffing - P1/2 Mrs Champion, P3/4 Miss Barnes, P6/7 Ms Weston (Mrs Digance Thursday), RCCT (Reduced Class Contact Time): Mrs Ross and, hopefully, Mrs McGaffney.

Mrs Gilles will support all classes, Miss Lamb will support P1/2 and P3/4

Mrs Baxter can no longer commit to Braco, so Mrs Le Cornu is with us until further notice, mainly supporting P5/6/7.

Hazel continues to volunteer in P1/2. Sally Dawson and Jessica Duncan are both helping out in the school as work experience.

The school is always looking for volunteers to help out in skills groups – talking about their job/career.

Dates are: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th May. Please contact the school if interested.

Excursions/Events this term

Prince Charming performance (p3-7)

Cricket and Bowling (p5/6/7)

P1/2 Robotics Workshop

I Bike Led Bike ride

N/P1/2 RSPB Vane Farm trip

Forest day N-p7 (with Iain McFarlane from 'Do It Outdoors')

P7 Ardeonaig Trip

Sports Day – 17th May

ARD challenge

Moving on, Moving Up Day

Kings Camp Activities and Sports

Braco School BBQ (Tayside Contracts) – 24th May.

Safe Taysiders (P7)

Orienteering Festival

End of Term Play and Celebration of Achievement

Reading with dogs with Joan and Fred

AB welcomed all these activities and asked if dates can be put out. SR will put dates/times on the app.

2. Curriculum

BD asked if parents might have more information on the curriculum being taught at the school.

SR explained that the school follows the 'Curriculum for Excellence'. This used to be very prescriptive, but now allows more flexibility for teachers – hence the teaching of subjects is not always evenly spread throughout the year – but may be more focused at certain times depending on topics and annual events. (e.g. music tends to be a focus in the build up to xmas). Learning trees are sent out to parents at the beginning of each term and the children have learning walls so they know what they are learning. Due to funding restrictions, some aspects of the curriculum have been cut back in recent years – e.g. provisions

of specialist music teachers, swimming lessons. This is outwith the school's control. A school improvement plan is also being written this term. P.E. is mandated for 2 hours every week, plus the daily mile.

BD asked if there could be a method for changes in the curriculum to be communicated to parents at parent council meetings. JS noted that we do have a headteacher report on the agenda for each meeting. Also, having a separate fundraising role on the committee this year has meant that a lot of meeting time that was formerly taken up by fundraising has now been freed.

HC noted that we are very fortunate to have the provision of violin tuition at Braco, supported by the Ardoch Development Trust.

HC asked how often curriculum evenings were scheduled. SR said this depended on parent demand and staff availability. HC suggested a good opportunity for parents to see what the children are doing and look around their child's classroom might be after class 'Get-Togethers'.

3. Parking at School

SR reported that we have been offered the loan of warning signs from the police during the first week of May. SR has also put out notices on the app encouraging parents to park responsibly. DE reported that the council has said they will repaint the zig-zag lines during this financial year, and that their own inspection has recommended extending these up to the junction of Feddal Road/Church St.

4. School Estate Transformation

SR reported that changes to the school buildings at Braco and the associated decant to Greenloaning is still set to go ahead from Aug 2020. Planning is underway – SR has met with the project manager to assess the suitability of buildings at Greenloaning. There will likely be 2 additional mobile classrooms put in the grounds to provide enough teaching space. There are many factors to consider though – e.g. having sufficient office space, having enough toilets, having a separate hub, how to fit pupils in the hall for lunches and even having enough cloakroom pegs. These details still need to be worked out.

DE asked if anything was known about proposed changes to the buildings at Braco.

SR has said that plans are still being prepared.

It was suggested that it would be helpful if a representative of the council/architects were invited to a Parent Council meeting towards the end of this term.

5. Fundraising

FK reported that Parent Council funds currently stand at about £2368. It was suggested and agreed that Parent Council would help fund the forest day with Iain McFarlane planned for this term. SR said this is about £200-£300.

DE suggested that, even though we are not needing funds, it might be good to organise a Parent Council event anyway – as this can be enjoyable and helps keep parents involved.

Ideas suggested were - jumble sale, Tombola/bake sale at sports day, raffle at the end of term play, Jack & Jill sale. These ideas will be followed up in the fundraising WhatsApp group. If any parent would like to be added to this group please contact bracoparentcouncil@hotmail.com or speak to a committee member.

6. AOCB

HC asked if anything was known about classes/staffing for next year. SR said that likely class splits would be as this year – P1/2, P3/4 and P5/6/7. SR is unable to confirm class teachers until a probationer is appointed, normally mid-May.

