

# **Straiton Primary School Parent Council Meeting by Zoom**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**

**Sederunt:** J. Williams (secretary), I. Hardy (chair), G. Bacon, L. Candlish (head teacher), B. Connolly (councillor) C-A. Dunlop (treasurer), J. Agnew, S. Agnew, E. Carroll.

**1 Welcome and apologies:** Isla welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies had been received.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting:** the minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> June were accepted. Matters arising would be dealt with during the course of the meeting.

**3 Head teacher's report:**

a) Liz remarked that usually at this time the meeting would be about Christmas procedures. However, in these times she reported that all Covid procedures continue to run well. A South Ayrshire Council Education Update is issued twice a week to head teachers. Guidelines are updated regularly and implemented where required.

b) There are two new pupils in school and one in the early years centre. The total number is now 15 in primary and 3 in early years.

c) The parent phone appointments went well and a feedback form is currently out. Parents are asked to please fill it in and return online. The results will be collated and shared at a future meeting.

d) Liz and staff are currently working with the quality improvement officer regarding the HMIE inspection. A letter is to be produced for parents after 2 years to show progress in addressing action points.

e) Seesaw is being used successfully for homework.

f) The playground markings have been completed. This was paid for using a grant from Maths Week and some of the garden grant money.

g) Children In Need – November 13th will be a dress down day

h) Outreach Day – December 4th will be facilitated by Dolphin House for Outdoor Learning input. A letter will be sent out.

i) Christmas will be very different as normal activities will not be possible. No Santa visit will be possible but an alternative is being arranged. This will be the case for a range of Christmas activities as clearly the normal timetable of events cannot be observed.

j) Fundraising – There has been a suggestion around Christmas donations for local foodbank. These could include items such as mince pies, shortbread and other items associated with Christmas.

k) School House refurbishment update: the finance is now in place for work to be done. There will be no huge changes structurally. It is envisaged that the house will be used for, e.g., clerical staff, a staffroom, meeting room for parents and other visitors and a quiet space when needed.

**4 Online communication:** a question was asked as to whether there was any feedback on the effectiveness of online communication. Staff are spending time training pupils on how to use and access apps so that it is not too onerous for parents. The staff are learning as they go as well. Parents are encouraged to call or e-mail if they find aspects challenging. Children are being taught how to upload their work so that it can be shared but it is important to remember that any photos and work shared on See Saw stay there and cannot be shared on any other platform.

**5 Online payment for school meals:** there is no facility for this just now. Although many schools are able to use this method it requires training for clerical staff and this training is not currently available.

**6 Funds:** current balance is £1180.44.

The money for the residential trip has been refunded.

Santa presents will be sourced by Carol-Anne at a cost of £10 per child.

Christmas Post will not run this year as it is deemed too high a risk.

Jen will co-ordinate suggestions for fund raising.

**7 Ratified members:** Megan Wells, Suzanne Agnew and John Agnew.

**8 Correspondence:** nil.

**9 AOCB:** the deadline for the next NCCBC newsletter is 13<sup>th</sup> November and Emma was asked whether there were any photos/ stories to share.

**10 Date of next meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Jeanette Heggs

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020