

Minutes of Parent Council meeting held on Thursday 26th January at 6.30pm

Attendees:

In person - Mrs Clark ,Mrs Alcroft Miss McKay, Nigel Fullard, Rachel Fullard , Carolyn Jamieson , Jayne Carson , Jen Wood, Nichola Hopkins , Kate Glasgow , Derek Whiteford , Pam Foster, Susan Forsyth , Millie McNish., Jacqueline Creighton-Macaskill, Stephen Murchie

Guests – Inspector Ian McColl (Police Scotland), Councillor Craig McKay, Councillor Bob Pollock

Zoom – Ms Roan

Apologies- Vanessa Pearce, Sarah Connell, Annie Howie

Introduction

Nigel welcomed everyone to the meeting and the minutes from 17/11/22 were agreed (Approved by Rachel Fullard, Seconded by Jayne Carson) .

Road Safety

A member of the parent forum, Stephen Murchie, gave a presentation on his experience of Road Safety Issues around our school and other schools. He cited inappropriate/illegal parking, speeding, parking on school premises, use of unroadworthy vehicles around the school; all of which are deemed to present a risk to pupils, parents and School Crossing Patrollers.

Stephen presented a list of proposed simple steps to alleviate these concerns/behaviours: speed bumps, railings, radars, additional double yellow lines, car-free zones, improved signage.

- Councillor Pollock stated that speed bumps and additional double yellow lines would not be an option but could consider flashing lights.
- Inspector McColl stated that perceived speed is often far greater than actual speed. His/his team's presence at drop off and pick up times of late did not detect a problem with speeding (although he did agree that being a visible presence can act as a deterrent), but he did observe aggression and inconsiderate parking (by Troon Primary parents/grandparents as opposed to other members of the public).
- Inspector McColl stated that very few incidents are reported and provided an email address that can be used to report non-urgent incidents: ayrshirelpsttroon@scotland.police.uk
- Inspector McColl said that Police Scotland will support the Education Department in controlling access to the school car park (which is used by local businesses outside of school hours, despite being private, and also should not be used by parents to drop off or collect children unless specific permission has been granted).
- Both Inspector McColl and Councillor Pollock felt that community speedwatch campaigns are costly and require a lot of commitment and manpower, they did not consider this would be a useful approach.

- The suggestion of School Crossing Patrollers using bodycams was discussed. This has been looked at before and resisted by department heads, but Councillor Pollock is willing to revisit and will also ask the heads of service to encourage reporting of incidents.
- Councillor McKay agreed that the street complies with regulations and that the problem is behaviour. He is keen to revisit the wider Traffic Management Scheme with Ayrshire Roads alliance and people agreed that this would be useful to do in advance of Lidl coming to the building opposite Troon Primary.
- Inspector McColl and Councillors suggested that the Parent Council should communicate with the wider Parent Forum on this matter as a reminder of the importance of the issue. A communication was subsequently sent on behalf of the PC via Expressions on 1st March 2023.

Headteacher's report

Staffing:

Two new members of the EYC team will join us this month after Miss MacArthur and Mrs Wright both secured permanent posts. Nicola Reilly and Elaine Pringle will join the team this term on temporary contracts, we look forward to working with them both.

Extra-Curricular

All lunch and after school clubs for the term will begin after the holiday weekend.

Parent Involvement and Engagement

Term 3 offers many opportunities for parental involvement and engagement, dates were issued in August on the calendar and are available on the website for you to access.

We had our poetry finalist competitions in school today, our afternoon of dance will take place tomorrow in the Concert Hall and as we move into February we have several events planned including our first Health and Wellbeing forum next Friday. This was in direct response to feedback over the last couple of years and will be an amazing opportunity for families to come into school and meet with a wide variety of partners that support wellbeing including Active Schools, Educational Psychologists, The Inclusion Team, Jumpstart, SAMH and many more.

Chris McKenna joins us on 16th February for numeracy workshops with parents and is also booked to work with pupils and staff, again this is building on previous feedback and successful partnership working. As part of our collegiate approach, this may also be opened to St Patrick's families due to our close proximity.

The week beginning 20th March we need parent helpers with our younger classes to work on Easter bonnets for our annual daffodil tea and then we absolutely need your support to join us for coffee, tea and cakes on Thursday 30th March at our event.

Consultation this term is focused on evaluating what is going well and our next steps. Our first consultation will go out a little later than planned towards the end of February. This will gather parental views on our

events so far this session linked to family learning and partnerships. We will also focus in March on the curriculum, learning and teaching. Feedback from this, and the annual survey, will allow us to plan our School Improvement Plan and complete our Standards and Quality report in Term 4.

Funding Support

The PC were asked to fund additional swimming lessons to enable the 'catch up' to continue. Ultimately, within a couple of years the school hopes to be offering swimming in P4. The additional funding to enable extra pupils to have lessons was voted for and will be provided for this year and next year.

The PC also voted in agreement to pay for the subscriptions for Sumdog, Twinkl and Pobble.

Parental Queries

1. From P3: Is there a reason for moving the children around in class so often?
CHILDREN MOVE AROUND FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS AND IT WILL BE FOR SPECIFIC REASONS, BUT WILL QUERY WITH P3.
2. From P1: Homework instructions sometimes aren't that clear. *THIS SHOULD BE RASIED DIRECTLY WITH THE CLASS TEACHER FOR A MORE TIMELY RESPONSE. NOW THAT P1 ARE ON TEAMS, THIS COULD BE USED FOR QUERIES LIKE THIS.*
3. From P3: Would it be possible to include on the calendar which events parents can attend? It would be helpful for parents who don't know what 'Day of Dance' and 'Daffodil Tea' are. *DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE ISSUED SEPARATELY TO THE PARENTAL CALENDAR AS A REMINDER. WILL LOOK TO ADD MORE CLARITY FOR FUTURE VERSIONS AND ADD ADDITIONAL DETAIL.*
4. Why is the homework so variable between year groups with some drowning in it and some the grid is minimal and barely changes each week? *THERE HAVE BEEN MANY HOMEWORK CONSULTATIONS OVER THE YEARS AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO REACH A CONSENSUS OF WHAT IS RIGHT FOR ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE. WE NOW HAVE CONSISTENCY WITH THE GRID APPROACH ACROSS EACH YEAR BUT THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS WILL VARY. THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF CHOICE WITH HOMEWORK; ENGAGEMENT IS REQUESTED WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO REINFORCE LEARNING, BUT IF IT'S TOO MUCH THEN AIM FOR AROUND 20 MINS AND THEN STOP (ROUGH GUIDE).*

AOB

- Following the calendars being late this year (due to an issue with the printing), we will be separating the order of calendars from Christmas cards in future.

- Reading books stopping at P4 - why? This will actually vary through the school, depending on the needs of the child. There is always a big focus on reading, with reading buddies, 'drop everything and read' every day, the school library and visits to the town library are now timetabled to start again.

The next meeting is Tuesday 7th March at 1830 in school.