

Aith Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7 pm
via Webex

Present:

Duncan McWhannell, Ingrid Smith, Michael Spence, Francis Moffatt, Sarah Quinnell, Kirsty Nicolson, Martin Dodd, Angela Leask, Kirsty Smith

Apologies:

Jacqueline Johnson, Erica Gadsby, Jimmy Mercer, Inga Irvine

Matters Arising:

School Website and PC Updates, Homeschooling Online Classes, Nursery Policy, Aith School Centenary

1. Approval of 24.11.20 Minutes:

Duncan McWhannell, Francis Moffatt

2. School Update

We are delighted that secondary pupils are beginning their return to in school education from Monday 15 March. On their return to school, secondary pupils are being asked to observe 2m physical distancing in the school building. Our classrooms have been measured and many of the classrooms have a maximum occupancy of less than 10 pupils. As a consequence of this our S1-3 classes have been split into three groups with some pupils attending on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. When planning the return we also had to take into consideration the school transport as secondary pupils are being asked to physically distance on school transport with a 1m separation. We have worked closely with school transport and almost all pupils will be able to travel to school as normal on school transport. If any buses are over capacity, we have already phoned you to discuss options.

The guidance from the Scottish Government requested that schools prioritise Senior Phase pupils. At Aith School Secondary 4 pupils will attend every day following a mostly normal timetable.

Some key information from Monday 15 March until the Easter Holidays:

- All children in P4-7 will return full time.
- All Secondary 4 pupils will return full time.
- S1-3 will be split into 3 groups with pupils attending one day each week.

- For S1-3 pupils there will be a reduction in live lessons and contact with teachers. Staff have a full teaching commitment from Monday to Wednesday and fourth year classes on Thursdays and Fridays. Staff will use the time on a Thursday and Friday to plan, prepare and feedback on remote learning.
- If your child is currently attending the school and you are a keyworker, or your child is invited in to the school, this will continue with the same rota.
- It is expected that all secondary school pupils will be back in school on a full time basis after the Easter holidays.

For returning Secondary, pupils there are some additional safety arrangements in place.

- 2 metre physical distancing in place for secondary settings at least until the Easter holidays
- Face coverings will be required to be worn by all pupils at all times in secondary schools
- Optional lateral flow testing kits are now available for all staff and S4-6 pupils. (We received information yesterday that these tests will also be made available to S1-3 pupils after the Easter holidays)
- Warm clothes – Classroom windows and doors will be open more frequently to increase ventilation in the school. Please remind your children to wear warm clothes to school.

3. Fundraising, Online Auction

Duncan began by introducing the members to the details of the online auction, which would be held this weekend (12th to the 14th of March) through the PC Facebook Group. This fundraiser has already had a lot of interest and great feedback.

While the Auction is ongoing Duncan asked for members to keep an eye on the bidding and share it for friends and family.

The discussion then turned to those who do not use Facebook, Duncan remarked the school would be sending out a list of items and taking reserves for items via email. Francis replied this was a very good idea to include more people. Angela added the list could be sent out with the school letter, updates and reminders could also be sent to those interested. Duncan ended the topic by thanking the meetings members for their help .

4. AOCB

School Website and PC Updates

Duncan enquired about the school website, noting it does not seem to be running at the moment. Michael then replied the software the website is running on is outdated and is currently being updated by James Garrick, and is still under construction. Michael also noted the school's Facebook account is used for updating parents/guardians while glow.sch is used for individual classes.

Duncan then mentioned on the new website it would be good to have contact details and names of the parent council representatives for parents and guardians. Michael responded noting the parent council would have its own welcome page with updates and member information.

To increase Parent Council's dialogue with the Parent/Carer forum Duncan asked to have a written segment in the end of term or beginning of term letters. Michael also agreed to this noting the segment would have to be written and sent to the school before the last Monday of term or the first week of term, depending on which letter it would go out in. Francis remarked it would be nice for the parents/guardians to know who they could contact directly as well as through the group.

Homeschooling Online Classes

Angela brought forward that live teaching was taking place in some subjects but not in some others. Michael replied there has been a few issues with the online classes such as bad internet connections, giving the example of the teachers who live in more rural areas. Some teachers find a lack of confidence for teaching through video call - the Aith school has provided more online teaching than the average school, it may need improving but it's still good. Michael concluded the topic, reminding the council there is no expectation or requirement all teachers are involved in remote teaching but it is an option available to them.

Nursery Policy

Sarah Quinell stated the nursery policies have been updated as the team and pupils have doubled in the past year. Noting it would be helpful for staff if the parents/guardians and others look through the document, to check it over. Duncan replied it could be emailed to parent council and the core members could look over it, also it could be put on the Parent Council Facebook if any others would like to look.

Aith School Centenary

Ingrid alerted the council that 2022 will be the centenary for Aith School, and the 40th anniversary of the building. The Parent Council were asked to think ahead of any celebrations and activities to celebrate.