

# **Minutes of Whiteness Primary School Parent Council**

## **Monday 9 May 2022, 6.30pm**

Present: Darren Silver, Dawn Smith, Rachel Colclough, Sheila Johnson, Monica Moncrieff, Diane Forsyth, Susan Jamieson, Cllr Moraig Lyall and Marie Grains, Clerk

Apologies: Jo Breeze, Hilary Winks, Cllr David Sandison, Cllr Catherine Hughson

### **1.0 Welcome**

1.1 Darren welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

### **2.0 Approval of Previous Minute – 7 February 2022**

2.1 Rachel approved and Sheila seconded the minutes.

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

3.1 Rachel gave an update for '7.0 – School Improvement Planning': the outside learning space has received £2,000 from Zetland Educational Trust. Tesco community funding will be approached in August as well as the Shetland (windfarm) Community Benefit Fund. This application will be applied by the parent council. Quotation has been received from SIC Assets, Procurement and Commissioning- and this has been split into two phases. Parent council could apply to the Community Council best to check first with them before spending time on the applications.

### **4.0 Headteachers Report**

#### **4.1 Leadership and Management**

- We have Jaclyn Ross covering our vacant Music post on a temporary contract. This post is with HR waiting to be advertised for a start date in August.
- Jaclyn Ross and Laura Lawson job-share one of our teaching posts as Laura has returned from maternity leave.
- COVID-19 affected the running of the school through Term 3, with the majority of children and staff having time at home self-isolating. The school managed to keep all classes running through creative use of staff that were in work.
- Katy Batterham has completed Bikeability training.

#### **Learning provision**

- We have enjoyed a term of Drumming with Joy
- Elaine Skinley met with the JRSO.
- Elaine Skinley ran Dr Bike for all P6 pupils ahead of Bikeability starting
- We have a fourth year B.Ed. student – Miss Hutchison-working in P1/2/3 completing her final two placements.
- P1/2/3 took part in a virtual Dinosaur workshop run by Dynamic Earth.
- The school took part in World Book Day.
- P1/2/3 enjoyed a Shetland ForWirds dialect presentation.
- The school took part in Red Nose Day and the P7 pupils plus some staff were in the stocks.

- P6/7 took part in Shetland Space series presentations.
- P7 have visited the AHS for a tour as part of their transition programme.
- The whole school enjoyed a visit from Martin Robinson, John Burns, Hugh Harrop, Karen Hall and Sharon Jack- to share their experiences of rescuing the Sperm Whale that had been stranded in Whiteness Voe.
- Bikeability has started for P6
- P1, P4 and P7 will be completing the Scottish National Standardised Assessments this week

### **Successes and achievements**

- P3/4/5 and P1/2/3 have completed their 6-week swimming block.
- P1/2/3 made lighthouse pictures for the Carers week- their lighthouses were displayed in Lerwick town centre.
- Four of our P6 pupils came first in the Shetland Euroquiz Heats; they travel to Edinburgh in June to take part in the National Final in the debating chamber at Holyrood.
- The whole school enjoyed Love Learning Love Life day celebrations where we raised money for Ukraine
- The whole school has taken part in the Voar Redd Up again this year.

## **5.0 Treasurers Report**

- 5.1 Balance at March 2022 £2,812.61. £20.00 received from SIC to go towards our running cost grant, which covers the audit fee.

## **6.0 School Improvement Planning – Evaluation and Forward Planning**

- 6.1 Priority 1- inclusive outdoor provision - As 3.1 above.  
 Priority 2 - Empowering Learners-Continue to build the knowledge children already have on the rights of the child through next year.  
 Priority 3 - Motivating and Engaging learners- all classes could attend assembly together. The magic mirror toolkit is used and feedback from staff this has been good.  
 Priority 4 - Raising Attainment - The PEF money pays staff to support learning in the classroom in order to address the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children. Reduction in PEF award next year means we drop from 5.5 hours a week to 3 hours.

### Improvements next year

Rachel wondered how to get feedback from the parent forum for the next year on what they want the school to be doing?

National Improvement Priority areas are –

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education;
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing;
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people;
- Improvement in skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people;
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

All broad at school level, do the parent council have suggestions? Dawn suggested mental health and wellbeing – focus on that and then if they are feeling better at school that could close the attainment gap. Outdoor learning would help build positive relationships. Rachel felt children on the whole are happy but how can we move on? Dawn asked about the buddying system. Diane said through covid it never stopped. Photos on display on Teams, older children set up games to play. Buddies mixing well going to the library and on the computers. Outdoor zones, now they have been removed, is working well. Have a daily list of helpers from P1- 7

helping in the polycrumb. Whole school community and visitors are allowed back into the school. Suggestion to reinstate Friday golden time. P7 were to organise again. An email has been sent home this week asking for parent volunteers for helping at the school. Suggestions for literacy/numeracy – how to word to parents, how do we see commonality. Maybe expectations set too high, writing is getting down levelled as a result of this. As we communicate differently with social media we type instead of write. Darren asked if the school is needing aids? Ipads are always needed. Discussion about sending home a smart survey or jam board - set as homework for pupils to complete with parents.

Good feedback received from the Anderson High for maths, mixed ability classes now. General feedback for English but work with them for better feedback after transition. Rachel could ask at cluster level to add to transition agenda.

Suggestion to have something for parents to complete at sports day, this could have a higher return than sending home an email. Rachel replied with sports day being 30 June this would be too late, but would be a good opportunity for confirmation of priorities from parents, following the jamboard survey. Chance to capture parents' views at the family learning week.

## **7.0 Future Events: Sports Day**

- 7.1 Parent council to have a stall at the sports day. An email to arrange cover and refreshments to be sent out nearer the time.

## **8.0 AOCB**

- 8.1 School grounds: Darren read through the email received from Maureen regarding the school grounds outwith school hours (attached to this minute). Discussion about dog poo, should we be providing bins? Sheila to speak with the SIC access officer to arrange signs 'please keep dogs on leads'. Moraig said if there was any vandalism speak to the Police and they would provide a drive-by. Darren to find out for Rachel a contact email for the Police as Rachel would also like to report fast drivers going through the 20mph section. Darren to report to the community council as Police attend the meetings.
- 8.2 Diane gave an update on the polycrumb. The mixed aged groups working well planting flowers and herbs. Maureen fills the water but on Friday, plenty watering done on Fridays and is fine for Mondays.
- 8.3 Recruitment for PC posts: Darren to arrange a flyer for the shops and at sports day. There is a vacancy for a coopted member. Email to be sent to parents with information on all the vacant posts.

## **9.0 Date for next meeting**

- 9.1 AGM Monday 12 September 2022 at 6.30pm.

## **school grounds are being used a good deal more out of school hours.**

It brings concerns over the respect or lack of it with some folk who visit.

We tried notices that the children made pointing out how we would like visitors to treat our grounds and pinned these notices on to the shed, clearly visible . Not much notice was taken at all.

So here are some of the annoying habits that are happening .

Gates left open to swing in the wind

Climbing of fences and gates

Dog mess and if using dog poop bags putting them in the penguin general waste bin where they often burst !!!

The wild life area is only used during school hours as a learning area but

Out of school users leave gate open / and often climb the fence.

Litter in the pond eg. wrappers and crisp packets.

Pond sign removed.

Bug boards moved. These are boards that have been laid on the ground to create bug homes and are often moved which means not in place to create any habitat.

We have loose parts that are often moved out of their areas after school but need to be moved back into right places before school day starts, tyres found even in the car park!

We have loose parts that are ideal for creating dens but instead of tidying away before going home are just left for school staff to tidy up before the start of a new school day.

Last year a wooden house was bought and put into the grounds for the use of Early Years in their area near the poly tunnel. It was installed on a Saturday morning and before Monday morning the 2 plastic windows had been removed and found broken in the grass.

Some of these actions are damaging to the grounds and others are a problem that school staff ( janitors) have to spend time dealing with.

What can we do to get a message across that yes come and enjoy the grounds but treat it with respect.