



Hallside Primary School

Parent Council Meeting 02.02.22

Headteacher Report

Introduction

Lovely to see everyone. Happy new year. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and relaxing holiday. In tonight's report I will provide an update on progress in our improvement planning for this session, Mirren and Mahnoor will provide an update on behalf of the Pupil Council. Then I will discuss Catchment Review, Covid 19 mitigations and recent P1 enrolment.

Update Improvement Planning

Delighted that in-person play-based pedagogy professional learning was able to go ahead last session. Mrs Byrne attended seven sessions over the course of August-December. Mrs Byrne has shared her learning with the infant staff team who have worked very hard to develop play based learning within both P1 classes. Early evaluations from children and staff have been very positive.

The teaching staff team are continuing to participate in virtual Talk for Writing professional learning and are working together to adopt these approaches in classes. I am working with colleagues from Glasgow University and Education Scotland on a Collaborative Action Research project to plan and evaluate the impact of utilising this approach in increasing engagement, motivation and attainment of children in writing. Thank you to Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Linn for supporting this action research project within the P4 class.

In August we also introduced revised numeracy and maths progression pathways. School staff and children have identified that every class would benefit from core maths concrete materials to support high quality numeracy and maths teaching. A huge thank you to Mr Bamford for all his hard work on this. In addition to our universal numeracy and maths provision Robert has also very recently attended Maths Recovery Training and is already working with groups of learners.

Recovery and pupil equity funded planning continues to make good progress. We have groups of children from P1-P4 attending sessions in our lovely Rainbow Room as part of our targeted support provision. We are also delighted to welcome Victoria Groom (Barnardo's Project Support Worker) as part of our extended team. In response to a need within the school we used some of our Pupil Equity Fund to access this support. Victoria works with us in the school and supporting families every Monday. We have also been delighted to

welcome Shahed from Wellbeing Scotland to the school. Wellbeing Scotland provide a counselling service for children 10 years and over. As a learning community we have money allocated to our budget (in addition to core school and pupil equity fund budgets) to be able to access this support for our young people. Access to this support is agreed with the young person and their families.

Towards the end of last session we used some of our Pupil Equity Funding to purchase 44 chrome books. This has enabled every class to have at least four chrome books for children to access throughout the day to support learning and teaching. It has also enabled Reading Eggs (online literacy subscription) and Sumdog and Education City to be used regularly as targeted interventions for groups of learners.

Pupil Council Update

Mirren Crawford (P7) Pupil Council Chair Person

Mahnoor Farhan (P7) Pupil Council Vice Chair Person

Catchment Review

I received update today advising that the outcome report was still in progress so it is not anticipated that this can go to the executive committee in March. I will provide an update when we have more definite timescales.

Covid Update

We continue to proactively encourage the staff team and the wider school community to undertake regular testing utilising lateral flow devices. Once again can I formally thank our parents and carers for their diligence in testing and communicating results to the school. This communication and partnership working is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to formally thank the staff team. Like many schools the detrimental impact of covid on our staffing situation has been significant. However, unlike other services experiencing surge capacity due to covid related staffing issues our staff team have went over and above in working together to continue to ensure the least disruption and highest quality learning experience for our children and young people.

Most mitigations continue to be in place in schools. Appreciate that this may seem frustrating compared to the relaxations in wider society. However, we appreciate that schools are a unique context without the same vaccination protections as other large gatherings. However, Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance on reducing the risks from COVID-19 in schools was updated yesterday (1st February) and it states,

“mitigations in schools should be retained for no longer than is necessary based on the state of the epidemic and evidence about risk, and ii) that there should be a presumption against placing a greater restriction on children and young people than on the rest of society as the vaccination

programme progresses. Following that advice, Ministers decided that lifting some of the mitigations at this stage is important and necessary as part of a wider shift in the approach across society.”

In summary, the key changes to the guidance include:

- No longer requiring ‘bubbles’ (paras 25-26)
- A return to the previous position in relation to Parent Councils and PTAs (para 30)
- Ease the restriction on school visits and trips in order to reflect wider mitigations across society (paras 34-35)
- Remove the requirement for staggered timetables (para 37)

Risk Assessment is updated (including 1st Feb changes) and is available on the school website. We had one local concerns in terms of ventilation issue in the gym hall. (Windows were not opening). However, this has now been resolved.

Looking Forward

School Photographer 2nd March

P7 residential 30th May – 1st June

Summer Fair – Liaise with Friends of Hallside

P1 Enrolment

22 children have enrolled at Hallside. Some of these children are being considered for deferred entry (which means that they would not start school until August 2023 if deferred entry application is successful. Three of these 22 children are placing requests out subject to approval. In addition to the 22 children currently enrolled we have four pending placing requests into Hallside.

Based on these figures the projected school roll for Session 2022-2023 would be 241 children over 10 classes. The current roll of the school is 264 children across 11 classes. This has significant staffing implications for the school. The mananagement structure is a DHT for a roll of 251 children. I submitted the first class configuration to finance team last week. I have not had any communication, as yet, in terms of staffing for next session.

End of HT Report

Welcome any comments or questions.

“When we work together everything is within our reach.”



