



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Held via Zoom call

1. Welcome, Apologies, Previous Minute and Opening Remarks

Present: Mrs Sandilands, Mr Bamford, Mrs O'Neil, Councillor Loudon, Councillor Fulton and 11 parents.

Apologies: Councillor Brogan and parent members

- Emma welcomed everyone to the parent council meeting.
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved with no amendments proposed.

2. Councillors' Reports

- Councillor Loudon advised that the catchment review is underway. Parents will have the opportunity to contribute to this review. A map had been issued showing the new proposed catchments area – since been amended as two streets were missing off this map.
- Online meetings have been arranged to seek views from parents on the 9th and 10th November – Emma will attend the event on the 10th to represent Hallside parent council.
- Climate Emergency Newsroom on Twitter is an initiative by High School students that is providing updates on COP 26.

3. Head Teacher's Report

See appended report

- In terms of the catchment review one parent queried the map/street location. In the previous Hallside/ Parkview catchment review this parents address was affected. Councillor Loudon confirmed that only areas on the map will be affected.
- One parent asked about any plans to build a local High School -Councillor Loudon advised that this item is on a rolling review and has been raised many times previously. Currently there is capacity in the existing High Schools and it is not financially viable or practical. Adaptation have been hinted at to existing High Schools.

- One parent suggested that with smaller numbers of pupils perhaps Hallside and the children are benefitting and queried class sizes possibly becoming stretched. Mr Bamford advised that class size depends on year group and numbers. An increase in students would bring an increase in resources/ teaching staff.

- One parent shared their experience of having an older child who previously attended Hallside Primary when approx. 500 were on the student roll. This parent felt that there were no issues.

4. Uniform Update

- Decision has been made to use Scotcrest as the uniform supplier.
- 90% of stock is available in the Hamilton shop with the remaining 10% of stock being available in the next week

5. Support for Halfway Fireworks Display

- Councillor Brogan had been in touch to seek support from local agencies for financial contributions to the firework display on the 6th November. Hallside Parent Council had donated £50 previously but there are not funds in the bank at this time to make any donation.

6. AOCB

- One parent had attended a Webinar Session with Professor Ken Muir on Education Reform in Scotland. This parent advised that discussions were interesting. A link will be forwarded where parents can read more and be included in the consultation.

7. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 1st December 2021 via Zoom. Invites to follow



Hallside Primary School

Parent Council Meeting 02.11.21

Headteacher Report

Introduction

Good evening, lovely to see everyone.

Exciting News

I received an email last week entitled Congratulations. I was thrilled to read that our school community came an outstanding 2nd in the average totals for Beat the Street and 5th in total points. I am so proud of our school community for the way that they embraced the Beat the Street initiative. Not only did it fit very well with our school value of Active, it was a welcome excitement after the past 19 months. There was a real buzz around the school.

Raymond Hood who organises this initiative will visit the school on Friday to announce this news formally to our children via the virtual assembly and present the £300 Decathlon vouchers. Can I take this opportunity to officially thank Mr Bamford for going over and above in supporting the events that Beat the Street hosted and keeping the momentum of the event going by taking groups out at breaks and sharing posts on twitter.

Learning and Teaching

The focus for us as a leadership team this term has been on our quality assurance remit. Robert and I are carrying out learning conversations with groups of children, monitoring jotters and carrying out some class visits. We are delighted to be able to share some of the learning that goes on in school home via the snapshot jotters. This week children have been using these jotters in class. These jotters will go home to families in the week of parents' evening. The jotters cannot capture all the fantastic learning and teaching and experiences that children have at school but they will hopefully give you an insight into your child's learning experiences this week. When the jotters go home there will be an insert to capture the children, parent/carer, teacher and HT/DHT comment on the learning evident in the jotter.

At last week's virtual assembly we discussed COP 26 and discussed how we could all be climate leaders by making some Climate Positive Actions. Some of the ideas were walking to school, travelling by bike etc... rather than car. Every child in the school has made their own Climate Action Promise on a leaf and we have displayed these on a 'tree' in the dining hall area for everyone to see. It really is true, when we work together, at Hallside, everything really is within our REACH. We will share photos via Twitter.

Improvement Plan Priorities

The result of the PB vote was outdoor play equipment, including outside table tennis, basketball and loose parts. We look forward to involving our children and young people in ordering and organising these resources. We have also been able to start our pre loved stalls as part of our work on sustainability and cost of the school day. In addition to the Improvement Work discussed in last month's report, a huge thank you to Mrs O'Neill who has volunteered to participate in The Refreshed Curriculum Narrative – How We Do It? Liz and I are both attending these West Partnership sessions after school throughout the academic session. We have been working with colleagues from Robert Owen Centre at Glasgow University and colleagues from Education Scotland to focus on engaging with our school community on developing a curriculum that meets the needs of our learners and local context.

Halloween Fun Day

The school community had an outstanding day on Friday 29th October for our Halloween Fun Day. A huge thank you to Friends of Hallside for coming to the school after the school day to decorate the dining hall and corridor, this made it really special for our children and was so appreciated by them.

Catchment Review

As you know the catchment consultation is underway. The consultation started on Monday 25 October and will close on Monday 6th December. There are two public meetings

scheduled to take place on Tuesday 9th November and Wednesday 10th of November. All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the consultation process. The Parent Council are also encouraged to submit a response. The views of our children and young people are also crucial in this process and we will seek to capture their views via the Pupil Council forum.

Covid Update

There are no changes to the mitigations currently in place in schools. While it may seem frustrating when we see the relaxations in wider society, we realise that schools are a unique context and we will continue to have mitigations in place until national further review.

Budget

We have received additional funding of £900 - Removing Core Curriculum Charges. We will utilise these funds for Swimming Lessons P6 children.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening is scheduled to take place on 17th November and 18th November. Due to logistical arrangements some classes will be over the two nights and some will be on the Thursday. Last year for the first time we used Parent's Booking as a free trial (an online system that enabled parents/carers to manage their bookings.) We had hoped to purchase this as feedback from families was very positive. However, South Lanarkshire Council have given all schools free access to School Cloud which effectively does the same as Parent's Booking. It makes sense to utilise this rather than incur an unnecessary cost. The work involved in changing over systems has been significant. A huge thank you to Mrs McMillan who has put in a huge amount of work to setting this up and resolving technical issues. We are awaiting School Cloud resolving some issues but we hope to go live with this booking format by the end of the week pending resolution of the difficulties that we have experienced.

Traffic Management Plan

We have updated traffic management plan and a site visit will be carried out on Monday 8th November.

I will continue to post reminders via the school newsletter and we will share the traffic management plan on the school website.

End of HT Report