



Hallside Parent Council – Parent Council meeting – Wednesday 7th October 2020 @ 6.30pm via Zoom

Present: Mr Bamford, Mrs Sandilands, Mrs O'Neil, Neil McCallum (Chair), Walter Brogan, Councillor, 13 parents

Welcome Apologies Opening remarks

Mr McCallum opened the meeting by welcoming all involved and recognising the change in the meeting due to Mrs Christie, Chair being unable to attend. This meeting will cover Parent Council Agenda items and the AGM is rescheduled to take place on Wednesday November 04th at 6.30pm via zoom.

Head teacher report – see appended document

Councillors' report

Councillor Brogan raised a question that has been asked at other schools about whether they are getting best value from the procurement system. Mrs Sandilands stated that a review of procurement system would be welcome. Mr Bamford also raised issues with delivery of items and not solely price. It was recognised that this is not unique to South Lanarkshire. Councillor Brogan will take this forward at a council level.

Councillor Brogan also mentioned issues that are present for other schools with vehicles especially in relation to road closures. Although there are some issues with speed of traffic in the local area this does not appear to be as pertinent in Hallside. There is no current feedback from South Lanarkshire Council about this and councillor Brogan will continue to raise this on behalf of affected schools.

Councillor Brogan appealed to people to contact him if they have any questions. He provided updates on some community events: The Community gala is cancelled as there is no use of community hall as a result of current restrictions. It is hoped the fireworks display is postponed rather than cancelled (maybe have it at New Year). The Christmas light switch on cancelled and community hub is looking at options such as having grotto in the hub. The importance of young people having something to look forward to was discussed and examples of things that are happening were shared, for example, The Boy's Brigade were involved in lighting up Halfway park.

Mr McCallum enquired about parking at Cairns Road at Public Park and concerns about safety in this area. Councillor Brogan advised this is not in his ward but he will discuss this with councillors from those wards – especially with regard to opening gates for parking.

Fundraising

Mr McCallum asked if people would be willing to continue fundraising for children's charity and for the school to take part in "Plaster it Purple". The parent council were in agreement with this. It was agreed that children should be encouraged to participate and any donations will be voluntary. Donations will be collected in money buckets and will be quarantined in line with current recommendations.

Covid update

No further updates at this time. An email address specifically for anything relating to Test and Protect has been set up for quick contact. This has been distributed and will be given again on October newsletter too.

Arrangements for Halloween

It will not be possible to have the Halloween disco this year. The school staff propose children have the option to attend school in fancy dress on the Friday before Halloween. It is hoped that Friends of Hallside may still be able to provide goody bags for those children who want to take them. There was a discussion about the practical issues of accessing the store cupboard and how long in advance goody bags would need to be made to be safe for children. Mrs Murdoch and Mr McCallum will liaise with Friends of Hallside and Mrs Sandilands to plan for this.

Pupil safety

Mr McCallum asked if cones can be put at the gate to stop people doing U-turns outside school. It was agreed this seemed a sensible solution to deter people from doing this. Mr McCallum also talked about another school that had a pictorial lollipop lady to deter people. Mrs Reid was involved in ordering of this for a school where she works and is volunteered to help Mr McCallum to source this.

Mrs Sandilands fed back that Isobel the lollipop lady has changed position and that the pupil council had raised concerns about her safety. A traffic cone put in parking space next to her station in order to help maintain her safety.

Bike shed roof

There is currently no Perspex covering on the roof of the bike shed current shortage due to additional demand for this. Mrs Sandilands will continue to pursue this. Mrs Brough suggested in the chat function that coloured Perspex may be easier to source.

Parents night

This cannot take place in the traditional form. There has been no formal agreement about how Hallside will do this. The current proposal is an interim report card with an ability for parents to feedback through a google survey. The school are also looking at incorporating films made by classes of gym hall etc. to help parental engagement. Dr Sharp enquired about the possibility of doing it

virtually, or having an option to contact teachers if you have any questions from report card. It was recognised many people would prefer this but there are challenges to this due to governance and other practical issues etc. Councillor Brogan said this is a common theme across other schools in the ward.

On behalf of the Parent council, Mr McCallum recognised the hard work by teaching staff to keep things as normal as possible for our children. Mrs Sandilands also recognised the resilience of the children in these challenging times.

Breakfast club

This will not be starting at present and Mrs Sandilands will inform the parent body as soon as there are any changes to this.

Buddies

Mrs Murdoch raised the issue of having buddies for younger children and children who are not confident while recognising the challenges of this due to current government guidance about bubble groups. It was recognised this is a helpful initiative and one that was previously in place but under current restrictions this is not allowed. The school are instead looking at other ways to promote inclusion such as buying wet play toys, allowing reading books outside etc. Mr Bamford fed back that these had been in place prior to the bubble groups and that the current Primary 7s were ready to step up should the opportunity arise for them to do so.

AOCB

Mrs Sandilands fed back that the first virtual assembly took place today and this went well and children enjoyed this. Mr Bamford did an "in real life" did upstairs assembly from the corridor. Staff will continue to try and find ways to promote pupil wellbeing.

Mr McCallum asked about the P7 transition to high school and Mr Bamford informed that P7 transition has started. A virtual visit has taken place with the whole learning community. This was a positive event. At present, it will continue to be virtual but will happen at same time scale, this is under continuous review. It was recognised that last year in June the outgoing P7s still had a visit and it is hoped this will be facilitated this year.

There was also a discussion about whether P7s would get their overnight trip. Mrs Sandilands reported that dates have been provisionally booked however they are not allowed to pay money for overnight visits at the current time. The senior management team are continuously reviewing the Scottish Government guidelines and if there are changes they will book this as soon as possible.

Next meeting will take place 04th November 2020 @ 6.30pm via zoom, details to follow.

End.



Hallside Primary School
Parent Council Meeting 07.10.20
Headteacher Report

Introduction

Lovely to see everyone, thank you for joining. In the HT report I will discuss some operational aspects and focus on one strategic aspect

I would like to share a quote that resonated with me from an article by Alma Harris (Professor of Educational Leadership and part of the International Council of Advisors to Scottish Gvt.

“The speed of change in this pandemic is unprecedented. Hence a high degree of trust will be needed, as the collective glue to ensure issues are addressed collectively as they arise.”

At Hallside we are a strong school community, this has been a strength in responding to this crisis and I know it will continue to be our strength as we move forward in overcoming the new challenges that we are and will be faced with.

Update on Improvement Planning

Continuity of Learning is a priority nationally and this is reflected in our Improvement Plan.

What does this mean?

I'll share with you SLC definition of Continuity of Learning

“The South Lanarkshire Council Definition of Continuity of Learning is the continuation of educational experience in the event of an individual or group self-isolation absence in response to instruction from NHS Lanarkshire. It is a critical component of school emergency management, as it promotes the continuation of teaching and learning despite circumstances that interrupt normal school attendance for one or more learners.”

Important Guiding Principles

- All plans should be developed in partnership with parents, learners and staff
- The learning experience for individual learners should be as **progressive as context allows**.

Hallside Primary School Continuity of Learning Plans

- Our data tells us all children in our school have access to wifi.
- All children now have access to a digital device at home
- Most (84%) of Parent/Carers stated that GC had been effective in supporting their child's learning. Almost all (91%) of parents/carers felt that home based learning was well supported by school staff. , Pupil and Staff feedback was positive regarding the use of Google Classroom as a digital platform for continuation of learning.
- 17% of teaching and support staff utilised Google Classroom to support learning prior to school building closure. This increased to 91% of all teaching and support staff.
- Tracking of engagement with learning via the Google Classroom platform via school building closure shows that this is an appropriate platform for our school community.

This information has informed our decision to continue to use Google Classroom as the digital platform to support continuity of learning.

This will be used for all learning at home.

Homework / Home Learning

Blended Learning

Periods of Pupil Self-Isolation...etc..

Next Steps

- All teaching staff engaged in additional professional learning at the recent in-service day. We have also moderated the use of GC across classes to strive to ensure a consistency of approach and share good practice.

I have met with HTs of our Learning Community to share practice and promote consistency where relevant and also connected with HTs across the West Partnership to share practice.

We have also addressed the points raised at PC last meeting e.g. children submitting work privately...All staff are now aware how to do this and all teaching staff will now use the assignments function. (The stream will continue to be used also as appropriate).

- We are looking for parents to participate in continuity of learning working party . Details to follow in newsletter.
- We will again be sharing videos with families to support access to technology.
- Use of Google Classroom by all classes for home learning from Monday 19th October.

Operational

School Roll and Twitter Updates

School Roll is currently 259 children. Our children continue to be very happy and settled back at school. Thank you to Mr Bamford for his Friday night Twitter updates. It must be reassuring for our school community to see how safe and happy our children are and to see a snapshot of the fabulous learning experiences taking place.

Budget

We propose to use some of the school fund budget (money raised by the school community) to purchase wet play class games etc... and outdoor play resources for break times to support children's reconnection and wellbeing. (Approximately £4000) in the fund. This was suggested by Pupil Council and classes have been tasked with making up 'wish lists' within budget, £100 per class!

Safety and Infrastructure

I meet on a regular basis with staff and pupils to review the risk assessment that is in place.

I have updated the risk assessment as required and this is available on the school website FYI.

Important changes that you need to know.

Our pupils and staff asked for automatic hand sanitising stations. I am delighted to say that we received these from central funding. We are awaiting their install. We also requested more units of these due to the unique context of our school. This request has been granted.

Staffing

Staffing is and will continue to be a very fluid situation while we continue to be in the midst of a global pandemic. As a Senior Leadership Team we have been heavily class committed recently. Can I take this opportunity to thank Mrs O'Neil and Mr Bamford for covering classes and continuing to ensure a high quality learning experience for our children.

We welcomed Miss Rachel Bannerman to the school at the start of the term. Miss Bannerman is an area cover supply teacher and former Hallside pupil. Hallside will be Rachel's base school and she may be in the school at times working with our pupils.

Breakfast Club

I know our school community are keen for Breakfast Club to restart. The re-opening of Breakfast Clubs remains under review across all SLC schools. As soon as I know of any changes to that position I will advise.

End of HT Report

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

