



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

Held via Zoom call

1. Welcome, Apologies Previous Minute and Opening Remarks

Mrs Sandilands, Mrs O'Neil, Mr Bamford, Councillor Katy Loudon, South Lanarkshire Council

14 Parents

2. Head Teacher Report

- See Appended Document

2.1 Discussion during head teachers report

- A question was asked about results from P7 standardised assessment. Mr Bamford explained that due to the nature of standardised assessments and the fact they can be repeated there has not been feedback to the children. There will be information available in the interim report.
- An attendee enquired about when the interim report is likely to be disseminated. There is not a set date for this, but it will be before Christmas. It was recognised that this report is an additional report for staff to complete at a time when staff well-being is also being prioritised. Mrs Sandilands agreed that it may be helpful to post on twitter with this timescale.

3. COVID Update

There were updates discussed within the head teacher report and there were also specific queries from parents.

3.1 Indoor Gym Activities:

- The indoor gym hall was in use for a short period of time before South Lanarkshire was placed in tier 4 restrictions. During this level of restrictions there is no indoor PE within school. A question was asked about what happens when there is inclement weather. It was fed back that children should come dressed for gym and the decisions about whether this goes ahead will be risk assessed at the time. This may mean on occasion they don't get the recommended 2 hours PE in some weeks. The staff will take opportunity to go outdoors when possible. A question was raised about a specific example where gym was postponed as the class were busy with something else and the children were told they would have gym the next day and the weather was less suitable for PE the next day. Mrs Sandilands will check with the class teacher involved as to the specific circumstances. Someone enquired about the possibility of doing gym based activities in the classroom. This would not be possible as the restriction is about indoor gym in tier 4. It was asked if children who have independent dressing skills can

bring spare clothes to change into due to the temperature in their rooms and it was agreed that this would be appropriate.

3.2 Lunch Arrangements:

- A parent had contacted the Parent Council with concerns about occasions where children had reported feeling rushed during their lunch. Mrs Sandilands and Mr Bamford provided some context to these issues. Lunch time takes place from 12.30 – 1.15 and there are two sittings. Sometimes during the second sitting the facilities staff have folded the unused tables up after they have been cleaned, but while there are still pupils eating. This has also been raised through pupil council and reassurance has been offered by Mrs Sandilands and Susan (Cook-in-charge) that pupils can finish their lunch. Mrs Sandilands and Mrs O’Neil usually supervise lunch and fed back most pupils are finished by 1.10pm. Mr Bamford raised that some pupils had changed sitting and now had their playtime before lunch and this had some adjustment issues. Clarification was sought on whether children had set places for lunch and Mrs Sandilands explained that children choose their seats on a weekly basis. It was recognised this was good practice for test and protect while still empowering our children to make decisions which matter to them. The school has been commended on this.

4. Councillors’ Reports

- Councillor Katy Loudon provided an update for South Lanarkshire Council. Councillor Loudon had a meeting with Mr Tony McDaid, Director for Education and as yet there has been no decision on the extension of school Christmas holidays (proposed that schools will close on 18th December 2020 and reopen 11th January 2021). It is expected the decision will be made and communicated later this week. It was also fed back that there is no news about whether Highers will go ahead or not. Reassurance was provided that there will be clear communication about the assessment and process for any decisions and the criteria students will be assessed on.
- Across South Lanarkshire staffing levels are at an acceptable level. There was evidence that cases of coronavirus were decreasing but in the last week there has been a slight increase even with Tier 4 restrictions in place.
- Councillor Loudon also fed back about IT Provision for any remote learning (including blended learning, self-isolation etc.). She has been liaising with Sean, a member of staff from Clare Haughey’s (MSP) office. There has not been any funding sources from this. It was suggested that the National Lottery may be a potential avenue. All Scottish government funding was received and equipment has been purchased. Councillor Loudon will let us know if she becomes aware of any other funding opportunities for IT equipment. She has also asked for information on use of PEF fund for IT.
- Councillor Loudon raised that the SNP has put it on their manifesto to provide free school meals and breakfast club funding to all primary school children if they are successful in the election in May.
- Children who have to isolate for more than 3-4 days and are in receipt of free school meals will be provided money for meals during their isolation More information will be available on South Lanarkshire Council website.
- Breakfast clubs are still not running within South Lanarkshire and there are no further updates on this.

5. Funding Opportunities Update

- Mrs Sandilands updated on Widening Access to IT through the Scottish Government and informed us that today she had confirmation that the school would be receiving 15 Chromebooks. It was recognised that Mrs Murdoch had been instrumental in this and gratitude was expressed by both the parent council and the senior management team.
- Mrs Murdoch continues to look into funding for additional Chromebooks. There have been barriers to this due to the difficulties that charities are having themselves due to COVID-19. An application was made to the national lottery, however their position was that the provision of IT is a statutory obligation. Mrs Murdoch highlighted the option for individual families to access funding for IT solutions through ParentLine. She is still awaiting feedback from the Education Minister.
- Mrs McHendry raised in the chat area that Friends of Hallside may be able to apply due to their different status from the school and she volunteered to assist with any applications as she has experience in this area.

6. Christmas and end of year activities 2020

6.1 Project – e.g. Foodbank Donations/supporting local families in the community

- Primary 6/7 are leading on a project to provide foodbank donations. They spoke at virtual assembly today and they will flyer others in the coming days. Donations will be made to Cambuslang and Rutherglen Food Bank. This has been organised by the children. Items will be bought in on a set date currently 15/12/2020. Mrs Murdoch highlighted an initiative in Lidl where they match donations made through them.

6.2 Christmas Cards and Gifts

- A system for sharing Christmas cards has been devised and is being implemented. This is outlined in head teachers report.
- Some members of the parent body were keen to be able to provide Christmas gifts for teachers. The school can allow this and request that children bring them into class rather than to the office and allow time for quarantine e.g. don't send in on last day. Mrs Sandilands gave a clear message that the most important thing to school staff is for the community to be safe and the school would not promote gifts for staff. Ways of disseminating this information were discussed and it was agreed the parent council would write an email from us which the school administration staff could send on to the parent body, and that we would give an update from the parent council for the school twitter account.

6.3 Opportunity to mark extraordinary year for our pupils?

- Attendees spoke about how this had been a crazy year for everyone and expressed gratitude to all staff in the school. She also spoke about the resilience of the children and ways we could mark the end of this unusual year – suggestions included certificates and hot chocolate for the whole school (recognising this would be logistically difficult!)

7. Breakfast Club Update

- This item will remain on the agenda as it continues to be important to the parent body. The update was provided in the councillor's report that there is no immediate plans to restart breakfast club.

8. AOCB

- Mrs Christie highlighted that there is Parent Councils' chair meeting taking place on Thursday 3rd December via Zoom and that if anyone wishes to attend they can let her know.
- Mr Bamford highlighted that is the last Parent Council meeting for 2020 and he thanked the Parent Council for their continued input during a difficult year.
- All members of the meeting conveyed their hopes that by the next parent council meeting that we may be in a different position.
- Merry Christmas Everyone.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 3rd February 2021



Hallside Primary School
Parent Council Meeting 02.12.20
Headteacher Report



Introduction

Lovely to see everyone, thank you for joining. In the HT report I will focus on learning highlights and provide an update on the school's Covid-19 recovery and response work.

Learning Highlights and Christmas Arrangements

As always, this term is exceptionally busy! We continue to move learning forward and are working hard to ensure that we are finding creative ways to ensure our children continue to have a rich learning experience.

- P7 pupils have taken part in virtual 'Mind to Learn' assemblies with Cathkin High and P7 pupils from associated primary schools.
- Continuity of Learning booklet was shared with all families.
- Recent In-Service Day in November all teaching and support staff participated in Attachment Training: Understanding the Past to Inform the Future virtual training. We have audited our practice in this area and are applying the training in supporting the wellbeing needs of our pupils and revising our whole school promoting positive behaviour policy and practice.
- Recently the school underwent an IT Refresh. This is a huge amount of work in organising the hardware that requires to be renewed. A massive thank you to Mr Bamford for planning this so meticulously and to the P7 tech team.
- P1-P3 pupils received their Book Bags as part of Book Week Scotland events and senior pupils participated in SLC poetry competition. Some outstanding written pieces produced and we are very proud of the maturity demonstrated by senior pupils in exploring and conveying their emotions through poetry during this difficult time.
- We held our annual Plaster it Purple event on Friday of last week. We raised approximately £270 and we will hold a second event this Friday for the two classes who were self-isolating. Glasgow Children's Hospital is a very special charity to our school community and we are very proud of our children for their efforts in supporting this.
- We devised an Interim Report which will provide a consistent format for reporting across all classes. All children participated in reading and maths assessments this term. These assessment results have been used diagnostically to plan teaching and

learning opportunities as part of our recovery curriculum. The interim report will contain standardised assessment results which inform teacher professional judgement and support the identification of next steps in learning. Teachers are working on finalising reports this week.

(Pause for questions on 1st part of report.)

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas in school. The Christmas trees and decorations are bringing some festive cheer to the school.

Christmas Cards

Children were really keen to continue to be able to send cards. We know how important this is to them and we have put a system in place that means Christmas Cards can still be sent between classes via the Monday Christmas Post.

Christmas Fun Day

We will hold a Christmas Fun Day on Thursday 17th Dec. Details in recent newsletter. Christmas crafts / games in morning and Christmas movie in the afternoon. Children party clothes, Christmas Jumpers, Casual Clothes. Children will have Christmas Lunch on this day too and we have invested in Christmas Crackers for the dining tables (sticker, party hat and joke inside).

Christmas Nativity

P1 children and Mr Bamford have been busy preparing a virtual nativity! We are excited to share this with you soon.

Fundraising

We have made the decision not to ask families for money in aid of school fund. We appreciate this is a worrying and uncertain time for many of our families and mindful of the Cost of the School Day agenda we do not want to put additional pressure on families.

Budget

Most classes have spent their budget for wet play and playground resources and were very excited to receive their new play resources. We will continue to order further games and play equipment over the next week. £1000 spent from school fund in total, £100 per class.

Safety and Infrastructure / Covid 19 Update

The school risk assessment has been updated in light of "Guidance on reducing the risks from Covid-19 in schools".

I can't quite believe it is only four weeks since we last discussed this but as you are all aware we have now had confirmed positive cases of Covid 19 within our school community while in the school building during the infectious period.

As we have discussed previously, Public Health colleagues lead on the response to these instances supported by the central education management team and headteachers.

In supporting the public health team investigation we refer to class seating plans, dining hall seating plans, timetables, discussion with staff in class...to identify close contacts.

While I cannot comment on individual cases I can say that the current evidence from Public Health specialists suggests that positive cases in schools and educational settings are on the whole a consequence of community and family transmission rather than in-school transmission.

The cleaning, support staff, teaching staff and SLT continue to work incredibly hard to keep our community safe. The SLT and office staff will always contact families timeously directly by phone should their child be identified as a close contact. While we are aware that the decisions that have to be taken can be inconvenient for families we have been so touched by the universally positive messages we have received from families that we have had to contact. By continuing to adhere to all the guidance and acting promptly we will keep our community safe.

Staffing

The staffing situation continues to be very uncertain as a result of necessary Test and Protect procedures. We are reviewing our timetabling regularly to ensure that children experience a consistent high quality learning experience and we minimise the affect of this disruption on the learning that is taking place.

End of HT Report

"When we work together everything is within our reach."



