



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Held via Zoom call

1. Welcome, Apologies, Previous Minute and Opening Remarks

Present: Mrs Sandilands, Mr Bamford, Mrs O'Neill, Councillor Loudon, Councillor Fulton and 7 parents.

Apologies: Councillor Brogan and D Christie.

2. Head teachers Report

- See appended document

February saw the phased return of primaries 1-3. Hand sanitising stations are located around the school, including at entry points within the school building. Lateral flow testing is in place. Additional funding has been secured to facilitate a soft start for primaries 1-3. The plan is to extend the soft start to primaries 4-7. Remote learning continues and a remote learning survey was made with few parents responding to the google survey.

Family quiz night has been arranged for later this month – if interested please contact the school office for details.

The anticipated school roll for the next session is 274 pupils. V-scene meetings will be utilised for meeting with P1 families given that the restrictions prevent the usual school introductions.

There is the potential for P7 to miss out on the annual residential retreat – national decision on residential school excursions is expected March 31st. School will confirm decision after national announcement.

V-scene is being considered for use at parent's evening given the restrictions that are in place, and will likely be in place for some time to come.

There was a positive COVID result today and families have been informed. The school follow advice from Public Health in terms of isolating. On occasion this may necessitate some classes isolating in full or may require only a few individuals who have been in close contact to isolate.

The COVID email address for notifying school of positive tests can be found on the school twitter page.

One parent raised concerns that the P1/ P2 area is busy at drop off/collection times with many parents congregating in this small area. This will be considered in reviewing risk assessment when P1/2 class return.

One parent council member expressed thanks to all staff involved in staffing the hub, emergency childcare provision.

A Parent council member asked if parents need to provide evidence of PCR test result's – Mrs Sandilands confirmed that there is no requirement for this to be provided, some families choose to send this information to the school office address or covid email.

One parent asked if the mental health and wellbeing lessons will continue. The parent council felt that this was of benefit to our children. It was agreed that this would be continuing.

3. Councillors reports

Councillor Fulton update:

- There is a local planning participatory budget group for Cambuslang East and local residents are being encouraged to take part in decisions affecting their community including determining how to spend available finances. Details will be emailed to the parent council chair for distribution to parent council members.
- Views of local residents are required on the Carmyle-Westburn Viaduct project. The bridge, if reopened, would connect the two communities. Information will be forwarded to the parent council chairperson for distribution to parent council members.

Councillor Loudon update:

- Cross party talks have taken place regarding budgets. An email summary was provided (see attached email). Budget proposals were agreed last week and can be accessed via the south Lanarkshire Council You tube channel.
- Of main interest to the parent council was welcome news that breakfast clubs and holiday clubs have been protected. This was covered in more detail under point 5.
- The depute positions are also protected at this time.
- Investment in education recovery is a priority and £2million has been made available via the education recovery fund.
- The pupil equity fund will remain available to schools and there will be continued investment to support digital inclusion for school communities.

4. Catchment Area review

An email had been sent to the PC chair from Lynn Sherry, Head of Education (Support Services and School Estate). There is a process to be followed and the outcome of this process will be relayed to

the parent council in due course. It is hoped that there will be an update before the last parent council meeting in June in regards to the catchment review.

5. Breakfast club update

Breakfast clubs are able to resume, however there are still a few decisions to be confirmed. Headteachers will be asked to contact parents to gauge demand for breakfast clubs. It is proposed that breakfast clubs could recommence after the Easter holidays, subject to public health approval.

6. Muga Update

Mrs Sandilands provided an update on the recent issues with youths accessing the Muga area. Over the weekend the area had been left unusable. The school have liaised with the community police and this will be raised at anti-social behaviour meetings to ensure monitoring of the situation and to prevent further disruption. The children were disappointed at not being able to utilise this area.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting date coincides with the school Easter holidays and it was agreed that the next parent council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th May at 6.30pm – zoom invites to follow.



Hallside Primary School

Parent Council Meeting 03.03.21

Headteacher Report

Introduction

Lovely to see everyone, thank you for joining. In the HT report I will focus on the operational and strategic aspects of the phased return of children to the school building, progress we have made as a school community in our Remote Learning provision, transition planning, reporting arrangements and a Covid update.

Phased Return of Pupils To In Person Learning

We were delighted to welcome our P1-P3 children and infant staff back to in person learning on 22nd February. As I always say we will never again take for granted the sounds of laughter, play and learning. It has been so lovely to hear. I'll share with you a highlight from this week when one of our youngest children came round to the office and I heard her saying, "Don't worry Mrs McMillan I'm not hurt we just need more hanitiser!"

In preparation for the phased return of our pupils we have included some additions and enhancements to the Covid safety measures in place prior to Christmas. All classes and main entry and exit points now have metal automatic sanitising stations installed. (photo included in March Sway Newsletter). All facilities, support and teaching staff now have the opportunity to participate in twice weekly lateral flow covid testing. In light of the First Minister's announcement in parliament regarding the risk of parents/carers congregating in a confined area we have made some further arrangements to drop off in the morning. Due to some additional funding that we requested and received to support the phased return of pupils our support staff have been able to start earlier in the morning to facilitate a soft start for all P1-P3 pupils. Children can now enter the building anytime from 8.50am to 9.00am and they are supervised by a member of the support staff team. I also plan to facilitate a soft start for P4-P7 children on their return on the 15th March. Children finish at 3.00pm as normal utilising all exit doors. The link to the full risk assessment is in the March newsletter and the risk assessment is also available on the school website.

Remote learning continues for our senior pupils. Until the return of all children on 15th March, we also continue to offer emergency childcare provision. Application continues to be via weekly google form. While we are keen to support our children and families during these times we are also under scrutiny to keep the number of children and adults in the building as low as possible. We have been able to maintain a maximum of 5% of our school roll in this provision at any time while meeting all requests that meet the criteria for childcare.

Remote Learning Provision

We are delighted with the progress that we have made in our Remote Learning Provision. A huge thank you to everyone who completed our How Good Is Our Remote Learning? 50 responses were received, a 19% return rate. The results and impact of the survey was emailed to all families and is also available on the school website to view. We used these results, feedback we had received from families via email and telephone conversations, feedback from class teachers and support staff and Pupil and Parent Council feedback to produce a detailed Remote Learning Guide which has been very well received by families. We will continue to regularly review this. As children begin to come back to the building teaching staff are now focussing on using diagnostic assessments to plan next steps in learning to inform in school recovery planning.

A huge focus of our work has also been on how we can support the wellbeing of our children and families. I shared some wonderful guidance visually on the latest newsletter that we received from South Lanarkshire Psychological Services on Supporting your Child with Learning at Home which focusses on connection, wellbeing and then learning. Connection has been so important to us at Hallside and in the times when our children have not been in the building it has never felt that we are not all still together. It has been wonderful to connect with children via whole school live assemblies and see and hear them on their meets. We did a snapshot survey the other week and we hosted 108 live meets across the school in one week across 10 classes. A huge well done to our teaching and support staff team for providing class meets and small targeted support group sessions and Mr Bamford even organised a virtual penalty Muga Cup tournament. Can I also take this opportunity to thank Mrs O'Neill for all the work that she is doing to lead the wellbeing programme across the school. Leading live virtual sessions and supporting the teachers in school to provide daily wellbeing sessions for pupils. We also look forward to our World Book Day events on Thursday, including the Masked Reader and thank you to everyone who has registered to participate in our Virtual Family Quiz Night.

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

Infant Enrolment Update. We have an anticipated school roll of 274 next session with 47 new P1 children pending placing requests in approval (this figure excludes placing requests out and deferred entry applications). I have been in touch with all families via email, we have provided families with updated school information and I look forwards to meeting with old and new families over the next few weeks via VScene so we can begin to welcome our new families to the Hallside PS Community.

P7 pupils are also very busy engaging in Mind to Learn transition work, and most importantly designing and ordering leavers hoodies. It is looking highly unlikely that our P7

children will be able to attend the annual residential trip. The national decision on residential excursions is scheduled to be reviewed by government on March 31st so we will confirm after this date.

The teaching staff team are meeting next week to agree our reporting arrangements. I know the feedback from families is that they are keen, understandably to have the opportunity to have a conversation. As we have discussed previously video conferencing platform VScene was approved by SLC for using to meet with parents/carers and external agencies on December 14th. I have used this very successfully for multi agency meetings and I would be keen to utilise this for reporting with parents if context and infrastructure allows. Alternatively telephone consultations could be facilitated. We may not be able to hold parents evening on the one evening as we have done historically.

Covid Update

Today we had a first positive covid case since pupils return to the school building. All parents/carers of children were notified as soon as we had this information this morning. I made the decision to send the children we identified as close contacts home as a precautionary measure. We received confirmation of the close contacts this afternoon at which point letters were issued to confirm close contacts and a general letter was issued to the school community to notify them of the incident. It is worth noting that there is a change in procedure that all close contacts now have to seek a PCR Covid 19 test 3 to 5 days after contact with positive case. I highlighted this to families today. The review of the case by health colleagues found that the risk to the wider school community is low and the school remains open to all other children and staff.

End of HT Report

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



