



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 5th May 2021

Held via Zoom call

1. Welcome, Apologies Previous Minute and Opening Remarks

Present: Mrs Sandilands, Mrs O'Neil, Mr Bamford, 14 Parents

Apologies: Councillors Brogan, Fulton and Louden

Opening Remarks: Following the welcome to meeting thanks were given to Dr Sharp for chairing the last meeting and Mrs Murdoch for her timely minutes. Chair noted that the catchment review was carried over to the next meeting when we hope to have feedback from Lynn Sherry, Head of Education (Support Services and School Estate).

Chair also shared positive feedback from parents for quiz, parent's night and the general effort teaching staff have given to keeping our children safe, learning and happy.

2. Head Teacher Report

- See Appended Document

2.1 Discussion during head teachers report

Majority of parents were in agreement with the proposal of donation system to school's funds through parent pay. Chair suggested ensuring parents are aware of the all implications of this including that it is a short term suggestion at present in the absence of fundraising and that parent pay keep a small percentage of monies given. It was agreed that it would be of benefit to share details of what the funding is spent on as some parents may not be aware.

Feedback on booking system for parents evening: This was mostly positive but a parent raised that clearer guidance could be given for parents with more than one child. Parents and teachers were generally happy with phone call for the present time but their remains a preference for this to be face to face. The parent booking system may be used for this even when we return to in person meetings.

3. Councillors' Reports

Feedback from Councillor Louden: Covid recovery continues to be discussed and she hopes to have further updates for the June parent council. She also reassured that with the school being used as a polling station the cleaning of building before the school body return on the following day is being taken very seriously.

4. Grant Award – IT equipment

The efforts of members of parent council in securing funds for IT was recognised. The Chair recently received correspondence that we were successful in bid for £1350 that we had erroneously been told we were unsuccessful for. These funds are be used for IT equipment.

It was also noted that the current Secretary and Treasurer will be signatories on the parent council bank account.

5. Scottish National Standardised Assessments

HT Explained rationale for national assessments. This year government are not asking schools to carry out assessments but still want information about levels achieved. This is numbers achieving rather than individual pupil details. HT proposes that these are not completed with P1. It is believed that there is enough evidence from the other ongoing assessments and work from teachers to provide this information. It was also recognised that these children may benefit more from play and connection at this time than from sitting a computerised test. For the students in Primary 4 and Primary 7 these assessments will still go ahead as there is a clear rationale for this. The Primary 1 parents present were in agreement with this suggestion. A parent asked question about how long the recovery plan will take. HT emphasised this may depend on many factors including what the gaps are and where the societal recovery is. She stated that usually improvement plan cycle is three years.

6. PEF Participatory Budget Planning

PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) Money is given when children meet certain criteria. This is to help close poverty related attainment gap. Stakeholders in the school have a chance to give views on how some of this is spent. This is based on needs of children in the school. HT is seeking volunteers from parent body to share views and suggestions to relieve cost of school day. An example was given that PEF funding has been used to continue the “soft start” for all pupils in Hallside and this has had a positive impact on children’s learning as they are ready to start class at 9am. The PB meetings will take place virtually where suggestions will be considered and then put to the wider school and voted on. Correspondence will come from school about this and people can volunteer. It will be before June 14th 2021.

A parent suggested making contact with the families who may be most in need of these funds. All families will be invited to contribute and there is a structure and time limit to how this takes place as it is a government initiative. Mrs O’Neil spoke of her involvement in this initiative and her pride in the way this is used in Hallside and she recognised work of the parent body in supporting this. The teaching staff also fed back that there are individual conversations happening with families where this is appropriate.

7. Parent Council – 2021/22 Academic Year

Mrs Christie will step down as Chair after 2 years, and seeking a successor. Please email expressions of interest to her.

8. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 2nd June 2021



Hallside Primary School

Parent Council Meeting 05.05.21

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, response and recovery curriculum and transition planning.

School Life

It is wonderful to have all our children back in the school building. While there are still covid risk assessment requirements in place school feels more normal than it has in a long time and we hope that as restrictions continue to ease we will be able to return to normal school life.

Since we welcomed all children back to the school building in March the staff team have been working exceptionally hard to support children to reconnect to in school learning, carry out assessments and begin to identify and plan recovery interventions where required. I have received confirmation from colleagues centrally that all schools will benefit from recovery support. This may be in the form of funding or staffing. I will update all families as soon as I have clarification on this.

As discussed at previous PC meetings we felt that it was important to celebrate all that our children and young people have achieved in spite of the adversity that they have encountered since March'20. Children across the school were keen to have a Fun Day. I hope you'll agree the Spring Fun Day was a wonderful event and all children, staff and parents/carer (via Twitter) received a special Hallside Heroes Certificate and Easter treat to recognise the collective achievements of our school community.

While the recent parents evening was far from ideal in the form of telephone calls and we would undoubtedly all rather meet in person the feedback that we have received from families has been positive. This year we trialled a parents booking system. It would be interesting to get some feedback from the PC on the effectiveness of this at the end of the report?

We have welcomed students to the school this term and have been delighted to be able to restart breakfast club. In discussion with the support services team I'm aware that some schools have had to offer a toast to go service or limit days offered to families. We are delighted that we have been able to offer breakfast club facility to all our families from

8.15am-8.45am. We have been issuing a google form to families to ensure all children are registered in advance. We will need to make a slight change and insist that all families complete this form on a weekly basis.

The school fund is currently sitting at £2000 approximately. We have not fundraised at all this year due to restrictions and conscious of financial pressures families may be facing. However, we have purchased wet play games, Christmas and Easter Fun day resources from the fund. We are considering detailing this to families and opening a voluntary school fund donation via Parent Pay to enable all families to have the opportunity to make a donation. I am acutely conscious of the Cost of the School Day agenda and I would be interested to hear PC thoughts on this to help shape these plans.

Transitions

Placing requests into the school will not be confirmed this year until 15th May. We will have our final class configuration for Session 21-22 after this date and I should be in a position to share this information at the June PC meeting. P1 Transition activities will take place mid June. As soon as we receive the updated government guidance we will be in a position to confirm our plans to welcome our new children. In the meantime I have met with all our new families virtually and the new P1 children visited the school grounds to collect a HT Gold sticker, school handook, Hallside Heroes Card and a little Heroes chocolate.

As I'm sure you'll understand P7 residential trip is unable to go ahead. While the latest guidance states that residential trips can happen the detail under the headline states for small groups of children, access to individual tents/rooms and toileting facilities which are not feasible for 34 P7s. We have discussed this with P7 and they are understanding of this. They are currently busy planning their staycation for the last week in May and are wearing their Hallside Leavers Hoodies proudly. We will also have a leavers celebration and ensure that we make their last term of primary school as special as possible.

I cannot complete the HT report without mentioning the outstanding Great Hallside Family Fun Quiz Night! What started out as a seed of an idea, "Mr Bamford what do you think about a Hallside Virtual Quiz?" and then discussing the idea at PC meeting... to participate in such a memorable, engaging and sparkly event was wonderful. Thank you to Mr Bamford for planning and hosting such a memorable event and to all our families who were able to participate. (To give you a bit of behind the scenes...the technical difficulty that we experienced at the beginning was resolved by Mr Bamford reading out the email addresses that the families provided in the google form and Mrs Macmillan typing them in individually so that families could receive the new link. As we have to bcc all group communications, this was not a simple resend.)

Covid Update

Delighted to have nothing to report in terms of Covid update. However, we do ask that all members of the school community follow the mitigations stated in our Return to the School building Risk Assessment. The risk assessment is available on the school website and reminders are highlighted in monthly newsletter.

End of HT Report

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

