**Wester Overton Parent Council meeting minutes**

**20th March 2024**

**Present:** June Moir, Fiona Hannah, Emma Beaumont, Alison Chand, Stephanie Chillingworth, Lisa Hendry (chair), Karen Kelly, Jonathan Orr, Amy Piper, Kirsty Redfern, Gillian Storrie

**Apologies:** Lyndsey Morton, Stacey Nisbet, Fiona Redmond, Lyndsey Taylor, Jo Tunney, Francesca Vacca

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30th April, 7pm**

**Welcome and apologies**

**Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising**

**June’s news**

June gave the following report of news from the school:

**Staffing**

Miss Bailkoski has returned from her maternity leave. Mrs Currie continues to be Acting HT at Blacklaw. This will probably be until the summer. Mrs Hannah is Acting DHT in her place. Miss Liddell is sharing the class with Mrs Hannah, with Mrs Hannah overseeing all pastoral care, planning and assessment for R7 for continuity. We are still waiting for our Team Leader post to be advertised.

**P7 Hoodies**

Should be here by the end of next week.

**P1 Registration**

We currently have 47 P1s registered and 2 placing requests. Hopefully, we will be able to have 2 x P1s and a P1/2. This would allow us to continue with 13 classes. The numbers will almost certainly change several times before June. The induction afternoons have started and have been really successful.

**Parental Engagement**

Hoping to increase parental engagement across the school. We put on so many different things, but we are finding it very difficult to get help with discos, Coffee and Carols, trips, visits, in school events etc. Looking for ideas to get parents more involved.

The feedback from our literacy sessions was positive. Some parents wanted more sessions, so we hope to have a numeracy session and a literacy session for all classes in Term 1 next session.

One aspect that came back was a few parents asking for formal homework. We stopped formal homework a few years ago after a lengthy and thorough consultation. Homework was a huge cause of stress in many homes due to modern, busy lifestyles. The hours being put in by teachers preparing and marking around a 50% return in homework had no added value. It has had no impact on attainment since we stopped, and attainment has steadily increased. Children are required to do tables, spelling words and reading daily at home. This has to be parental responsibility as homework isn’t compulsory.

**Technology**

We have purchased full trolley of new iPads to replace our original set. This gives us 3 trolleys in the school. We have also purchased the Sphero Indi kit to support coding skills throughout the school. A large amount of practical technology materials (wood, wheels, pulleys, batteries etc) was also purchased to support the P7 engineering project.

**Sports**

We have had 4 children through to the finals for the SLC Cross Country next week. We have competed in netball and football festivals, also investing in new netballs, new footballs and new netball kits. 14 children will be performing at the Dance Festival next week. We’ve put nearly 100 pupils through Bikeability training over the past few weeks. We are currently 2nd in Scotland for the Big Walk and Wheel. Now getting ready to organise Sports Week.

**Science week**

We had a very successful Science week. Some parents came in to share their knowledge. Generation Science and Biology in a Basket. The classes rotated round different experiments organised by the teaching staff, and we saw real engagement and enthusiasm. The careers fair was a great opportunity for the pupils to find out about different career paths. Many of the presenters commented on how polite and engaged our children were.

**Assessment Week**

Really good attainment across the school. The spelling, reading and maths in the lower stages is excellent, showing the benefits of our play-based learning approach.

**Finance update**

* Kirsty updated that £4829 remains in the parent council account, although money from the spring disco is yet to be added – June to update on this.
* Kirsty noted that £50 payment to the rugby club for cancelled quiz night has still not been returned.

**Fundraiser ideas**

* Discussion around various possibilities for a parents’ social event or fundraiser. Decided not to set date at the moment and re-visit in August.

**Gift for Mrs Sawers**

* Parent council to purchase voucher and card to send as thank you to Mrs Sawers, to be passed to June for posting [DONE].

**AOB**

* June clarified remaining P7 parents’ assembly times/dates.

**Next meeting date:**

Tuesday 30th April 2024