

Date(s)/Time	Monday 28th February 2022
Location	Google Meet
Meeting Participants	Parent Council Members/parents: Present- Alison Ewing, Emma Duff, Gill Rae, Susan Rutherford, Adrian Sinclair, Iain Paterson, Leigh Orffer, Lorna Hardie, Louise Heathcote, Morag Rendall
	Apologies: Michelle Galloway, Joanne Devine, Lisa McCulloch, Lynne McFadyen
	East Plean Primary School Members: Ruth Donnelly - Head Teacher, Sally Atkinson - Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Heggie- Health and Wellbeing Officer
Discussion Topics	

1. Mrs Duff and Mrs Ewing welcomed everyone to the Parent Council Meeting
2. **Headteacher report:**

Covid Guidance: Many of the risk mitigations remain in place currently. We are now able to return to in person assemblies, with additional ventilation, face coverings and physical distancing for adults. In person transition visits for Nursery learners and Primary 7 learners can take place also with risk mitigations considered.

Diary/ Events:

- World Book Day- Thursday 3rd March
- Scholastic Book Fayre- 16th March- 23rd March
- David Smith visiting P7 to lead WWII sessions in March.
- Red Nose Day 18th March- wear red and activities led by Primary 7. Donations will be made on ParentPay or handed to class teacher.
- STEM week in school- science and technology challenges and activities- keep a watch on Twitter!
- Term ends on 1st April for school. Nursery closed: 11th- 18th April. School and Nursery reopen on Tuesday 19th April.

Staffing update:

Mrs Falconer has returned and is working across almost all classes. Mrs Diamond is due to return on in March and will be supporting learners across the school also.

School Improvement Planning:

- Achieved our 6th Eco Flag
- Achieved our Core Level Reading Schools Award
- Working on our Communication Award across school-to achieve our Bronze and Silver Level. Nursery achieved Gold level (Speech and Language)
- Plan to send out parental questionnaire this week to inform our next steps in relation to school improvement.

Role of Parent Councils

- Work in partnership with the school to decide on the key priorities to take forward;
- Provide a voice for parents in schools and in their local authority on issues that are important to them;
- Improve the school's understanding of how to engage parents in their children's learning and in the life of the school;
- Support the school to develop strong home/school partnerships;
- Communicate regularly with the Parent Forum to both hear their views and keep them informed;

- Support improvement by discussing the school's strengths and areas for development from a parental perspective;
- Help make links with the wider community;
- Capture the unique and varied skills, interests, knowledge and experience that parents can offer.

Therefore Parent Council provide an essential support in terms of school improvement priorities:

Thank you for reflecting and feeding back on the questions sent out by email last week:

1. Does East Plean's curriculum meet the needs of all learners? What could we change, include, improve?
2. How would you like to be more involved in your child's learning journey? What would you like to know more about? What aspects of learning would you like to be involved in?
3. What does your child enjoy about school? Does your child talk about their learning? In what way could home learning be improved, updated or changed?
4. What role do you see for Parent Council in school improvements next session? What activities would you like Parent Council to lead on to support the school and nursery community?
5. Any other thoughts, comments or ideas?

Parent Council views/ feedback to questions re: school improvement:

Curriculum:

- East Plean's curriculum meets the needs of learners.
- More outdoor learning and play for younger pupils.
- Knowing more about Curriculum for Excellence and the different levels for each year.
- Good to know what the focus of learning for each year/ month will be to engage and support learners in their learning at home and in discussion.
- The range of experiences and learning opportunities allow development of a range of skills.
- Continue with outdoor learning, incorporate a growing garden?
- Overview of learning and links to use to support at home.
- Good to have a knowledge of the programmes used e.g. Jolly Phonics (share video by email/ parent sessions)

Family Learning/ Parental Engagement

- Participating in learning in the classroom with own child was helpful and informative.
- Home learning- different across classes. Good to see what learning is being covered in classrooms and to be able to support at home.
- Parents need to feel included in school and learning. Knowing more about why child is in the Big Book of Praise, more consistent use of Twitter, understanding purpose of Achievement Wall, updates on school app about learning in classes discussed.
- Parents discussed ideas that engage and motivate children in the morning (Wake and Shake, Yoga, Daily Mile idea, good sleep routines)
- Idea about children being able to share friend's achievements in school volunteered.

Skills

- It is good that children are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills and confidence- continue with this.
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Parent Council role going forward:

- School Grounds (Gather views from staff, learners and parents about what is wanted/ needed)
- Link with Eco Group/ Gardening Group to take work in school grounds forward.

Discussion about a link with the Ogilvie Building Group. Mrs Donnelly will make contact to discuss.

Playground/ School Grounds Update:

Mr Paterson had linked with RTS Forestry. They planted trees along the back fence of the playground on Friday. They will come to plant bluebells later in the year too.

Plan to gather views from children about playground before next steps.

HT to find out what Council is responsible for in school grounds and what school is responsible for re: maintenance.

Financials:

Current balance is £3863.24

Fundraising ideas:

Looking to plan something for the children to have a get together in term 4.

Ideas discussed: outdoor party, movie night

AOB

- David Grainey, Youth Ambassador with Bannockburn Rugby Club has been leading session with P6 and P7 in school with the plan to hold a tournament across local primaries schools later in March. Perhaps opportunity for Parent Council to support.
- William Silvestro is making progress with development of a local football team.

Next meeting: Monday 28th March 2022 7pm on Google Meet