**Gartmore School Partnership (GSP) Meeting & AGM**

**Monday 21st September 2020, 7pm.**

**Virtual**

Attendees: Simon Evans (SE), Stephen Hart(SH), Christine Franks (CF), Fiona Buchanan (FB), Elita Poulter, Natasha Sheppard , Julie McCrone, Anne Walker, Anne Jackson, Hannah Robinson

1. Chair’s welcome and apologies (SE)

Simon welcomed everyone. Introductions made around the virtual room

No apologies received.

1. Matters arising from minutes from the Previous Meeting (SE)
   1. No matters relevant arising.
2. Appointment of new GSP Treasurer needed for next year – there was a call for any volunteers coming forward. There is an opportunity for shadowing current treasurer - Stephen Hart with a view to taking on the role next year. Please contact Simon in the first instance to find out more.

The current Chair – Simon Evans, and Secretary - Hannah Robinson are both happy to continue for a second year in the roles and these were confirmed at the meeting.

1. Headteacher’s Report (FB)

The school now has 33 pupils, 17 in class P1-3 and 16 in class P4-7.

A warm welcome to the new teachers - Miss Weir and Mrs Taylor. Classes are operating as 2 bubbles, and are settling well.

This terms topics P1-3 ‘My world’ – how the world is made, tying in with own emotional world, P4-7 ‘film making’. The focus initially has been about getting to know each other both for new teacher and new starts and assessing pupil’s progress after lockdown, looking at the impact of lockdown on learning and progress. The assessments taking place have looked at progress academically but also personal development and wellbeing.

School Improvement Plan for this year

3 Main areas - Focussing on literacy and spelling and moving on with writing.

Health and wellbeing remains paramount with PE taking place outside The third area is outdoor learning. Pupils have also established ‘Class Charters’.

Staff and pupils will be using an IT programme called Clicker to support learning.

Chromebooks coming for P6 and P7, funded by the council. P7s in next few weeks and P6 hopefully soon after that. We’re doing well for IT equipment!

There are plans for ‘virtual’ athletics for the P4-7 class. These are events taking place with whole learning community across the Stirling area.

Apply Day. Usually Mrs Millar would be in school with the children for this day, and linked to all the other outdoor learning programme she leads but due to COVID 19 this event is planned with her support being ‘virtual’ to allow for distancing . Apple Day will take place on Fri 9 October.

Parents evening.

Mrs Buchanan suggested that we have a phone-call with teachers for 10-15 mins. This to be supported by sharing the work done on seesaw so parents can see what their child has been doing. We discussed the benefit of face to face in getting to know the teacher, and vice versa, and the future potential of virtual meetings, and the use of seesaw etc.

Questions from parents - Homework:

Mrs Taylor is looking at ‘no marking’ homework that we can share virtually. This will run between October and Christmas holiday.

Languages update – both classes are learning French. P4-7 will also be focussing on learning Spanish.

Playground improvements:

Fiona will be sharing the plans by email. Funded by GSP funds, the aim is to make the children’s play more positive and purposeful, providing challenges at playtime and lunchtime. Currently there isn’t a huge amount for children to do in playground.

The plans involve new zones – Construction (giant Lego, water play using drain pipes etc. use of tarpaulins etc.), Active play (ball games – tennis, parachute, hockey, kite flying etc.), Exploring & discovery (sandpit, nature discovery, e.g. tree climbing – if we can make that work), Drama (build a stage with pallets by the shed for roll play, using costumes and props), and Creative (chalk boards, mirrors, outside painting, water art, colouring) and Quiet zones (round the back – picnic bench, books, repaint chess board etc.)

Resources would change every few week. The children have come up with the ideas and will meet with Mrs Hennessey every Friday to choose the next weeks play focus.

Shed improvements. Mrs Buchanan is getting quotes for knocking down old toilet cubicles to make a better storage area that would be accessible and lockable.

**Action: Making this happen – the School will provide a running total of what they are acquiring and what spending and will work with Stephen and other GSP office bearers to keep an eye on the budget.**

There followed a discussion around investigating a covered area and making sure we continue to use the school field. This to be taken forward together. This was noted as being a useful addition for the hopes to reopen the Breakfast and Afterschool clubs when able to do so.

Mrs Buchanan reminded all parents that we need to make sure all children have the right clothing for specific days to use the field. The use of the field will have to be more organised than previously due to the needs of COVID rules and providing the right supervision, we need a variety of opportunities.

Looking forward – there is a sense that schools will remain open whatever comes next weeks and months. Google classroom and Google meet would be our IT platform. Communication between teachers and parents will be our challenge, we need to be able to talk to the teacher and ask questions to help parents support children. Works been done on improving IT connectivity in the school. The children’s IT skills have come on leaps and bounds. Teachers are looking at all the options to make sure they are able to prepare for all eventualities

Mrs Taylor is going to have First Aid training so there will be two H&S trained members of staff (& Mrs Hennessey).

1. Budget / finance (SH)

Finance report. Overall we’re in a good position with £17.5k in GSP funds. The main concern will be knowing when the GASC and Breakfast club can run again as currently we are running at a small loss. We may lose £3k a year if numbers signed up carry on as is. The cost is £6 per session for attendance and we need 9 attendees a day to break even and currently these numbers, apart from busy Wednesdays and Thursdays are more like 5-6 a day. To mitigate loses £1k has been fundraised from the Kellogg grants fund for the breakfast club and if we can’t find funds for afterschool club over the longer term we might have to look at our options.

Every year we spend about £3.5k on priority items for the school (such as the playground improvements above). We need ref £4,600 this year. This is much as we had planned as we underspent last year.

All in agreement with the plans for spending and thanked Stephen for all the work involved and for the great infographic showing all GSP achievements!

1. Breakfast/Afterschool Club (CF)

We’ve had a challenging time trying to get an unregulated kids club up and running again. We’ve been looking for solutions for organisations that are not registered with the Care Commission (sessions that last less than 2 hours like our after school club) and are waiting for guidance. We’ve completed a risk assessment to fit with School requirements. We have investigated the use of the Community Hall – if we use it we need to be cleaning the ‘touch points’ in the hall (door handles, light switches, toilets) either side of sessions.

It would be easier to run outside but with winter coming that brings its own challenges! We also need a new Playleader. This is currently being advertised. We have the challenge of bringing helpers in from the community while kids must stay in their class bubbles.

Breakfast club - demand is lower currently with people working at home. Currently the Council is suggesting that the Breakfast club has to have a catering assistant and only start at 8.30.

We’re not giving up on breakfast club!

**Action Simon (SE) to write to Councillors and Stirling Council to challenge the ‘one size fits all’ approach.**

**GSP will keep all parents updates on any progress with both clubs.**

1. Road awareness

Parents have noticed much more traffic congestion, parked cars, buses, and too many people waiting on the pavement at end of the school day.

Mrs Buchanan suggested that parents are welcome to come into the playground to wait. There is also the potential to do some work on road safety week again as a school project, with posters etc.

Also, suggestions that parents park at the halls and walk down.

Discussion on parking and options for Main Street.

**Action: Simon (SE) to write to the Community Council to ask about the potential of sleeping policemen/speed bumps by the school.**

1. AOB

Gartmore 10K

Shame to have to cancel the 10k but for next year thinking to run again as committee organised to run in spring and summer. Anyone interested in taking part can contact Simon.

Discussion on options for Christmas –

There will be a Christmas party (but might be in bubbles), but the annual panto is not likely to happen this year. In terms of the Christmas Show, the school is planning a virtual performance to be filmed, children can’t sing inside but could outside! Instead of having our usual performance in the Hall the school is hoping to plan for a performance at the end of the summer term.

Ideas welcome from parents on COVID acceptable Christmas activities.

Suggestions at the meeting included socially distanced carol singing!

1. **Date of next meeting (virtual by zoom): Monday 2nd November, 7.00pm**