

**MINUTES of Carmondean Parent Council Meeting held on Wednesday,
15th January, 2020**

Present: Gillian Brunt/Laura Sneddon - Joint Chair
Leeanne Turner - Parent
Lynn Scott - Parent
Sam Gladwin - Parent
Joanne Gladwin - Visitor
Gillian Millar - HT
Matt Shanks - DHT
Claire Pringle - Acting PT
Aileen Jamieson - Class Teacher
Fiona Harding - PSW (Minutes)

INTRODUCTION

Matters for discussion on tonight's Agenda to be based on an update of progress made from previous PC meeting held on 6th November.

UNIFORM LOGO

GB enquired if the logo renewal was still going ahead. CP fed back the importance of the children being involved and having a thorough understanding of the school's values and the four values chosen to appear on the uniform. These are being promoted by senior management during assemblies. A price comparison is currently being done with our present supplier and possible new supplier.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Notification of these was by letter initially followed by dates and timings also being published in the school newsletter with SMT being keen to open doors for these informal drop in sessions. HT asked parents if there had been any feed back on this as, at the first one in December, no one had turned up. Do these need to be more heavily advertised or the timings changed? The Senior Management Team comprises four members of staff with two being class based hence not quite so visible as HT and DHT. Parents felt that the time of year and work commitments were contributory to the non-attendance. PC members felt it would be worthwhile to mention these sessions during the P1 induction process. LT also felt a group text might be beneficial as people would perhaps find that system of communication more accessible.

DIGITAL CODING SKILLS PROGRAMME

Information on the above programme was suggested by Joanne Gladwin at our AGM in September. JG informed meeting that Knightsridge PS have the programme up and running and a few other schools have requested funding. Coding is part of the curriculum and children are really enjoying working with the robots. HT willing to give a shout out to parents to gauge if there would be any interest in taking this forward.

BIKE RACKS/BIKEABILITY SCOTLAND

Contact made through the Council and enquiries ongoing about funding for bike racks as mentioned at previous meeting. Gordon Chree had asked about cycling lessons for schools which now go under the title of Bikeability Scotland, replacing the previous Cycling Proficiency. CPS have run these in the past targeting children at P5 and above. Training courses are offered by Lowport Centre and initially three staff members were trained up to deliver this. Children were required to provide their own bikes and bikes were individually checked for safety before any child could be signed up for the programme. As every child does not have access to a roadworthy bike, JG suggested that the Vennie (a local support group within the community) could possibly supply bikes and helmets. However, after participants had completed Level 1, Level 2 required the children to be taken on roads within the community assisted by the staff members and also Police Scotland. Due to cut backs/work commitments within the Police this did not happen. Teachers also found the sessions time consuming as children were being taken out of class and much of the time was taken up by fixing damaged chains and pumping up tyres. In some schools parents have gone on the training course and volunteer their spare time.

CYBER BULLYING & INTERNET SAFETY

Internet safety is heavily embedded within the curriculum. LT through her own job linked to Child Protection, informed the meeting of the dangers of social media whereby so many children are allowed access to inappropriate platforms, TikTok being one in particular. Leanne would be prepared to offer, on a voluntary basis, a workshop in CPS to provide similar training to that which she delivers to Edinburgh schools. Again Nursery/P1 Induction meetings would be an ideal time to approach parents - scheduled for Wednesday 10th June. HT felt that various matters arising through social media happen outside in the community, are then brought into the school, then we are often expected to deal with the aftermath of something which the school has not created in the first instance. LT recommended we obtain copies of the Vodafone Digital Parenting Magazine which is available quarterly and suggested we raise awareness of Internet Safety Day in February.

NOTIFICATION OF AGENDA

GB asked if it had been helpful to put the Agenda up on the Facebook page. HT would appreciate an electronic copy - it could also be emailed to parents. It is also the PC's intention to compile a bi-annual newsletter with the PSA. GM advised that it be emailed to the school office and Mrs Wotherspoon will then forward it on to contacts.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

PC queried whether the wording on the school's website was slightly confusing as some parents were possibly being led to believe that they had to be personally invited onto the PC. Every parent in the school is part of the Parent Forum and whilst anyone can attend a PC meeting without a personal invite, office bearers do have to be appointed. MS said much of the wording is generic from WL.

A.O.B.

Lynn Scott asked about swimming lessons provision. Due to budgetary restrictions children are no longer given a block of swimming lessons and we are now at the point where P5s are assessed on their ability once a year. The pool at DCHS is no longer open to the public as it is now part of Xcite.

HT concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and congratulating Gillian Brunt and Laura Sneddon on their first meeting.

