

Torphichen Primary School

Parent Council

Tuesday 30 January 2018

Head Teacher's Report

1. Update

Please accept my apologies for absence this evening. My dad has been very poorly for the past few months. On 9th January he was taken into hospital. From that date I tried my best to keep going with work and daily visits. Unfortunately on Tuesday 16th January we, as family, were called in to the hospital. We were by my dad's side until Thursday 18th January when he sadly passed away. I hope you will appreciate that this has been a devastating time for us, as a family.

My leadership team, teaching teams and pupil support teams have been absolutely brilliant. They have maintained the service provision in all three schools and I cannot thank them enough for their support. As you will appreciate, learning and teaching for our children has to be the priority and standards and expectations for them have to be maintained.

It has been brought to my attention that there have been a number of recent complaints regarding there being no acknowledgement to e mails sent to our leadership team. I hope you will understand that, with my absence, our leadership team were working extremely hard to meet other demands and requirements to ensure that the quality of learning was being delivered.

The school e mail address is the means by which parents communicate with the school. Mrs Callan then forward e mails to me for my attention. Some may be responded to via the office eg requests for term time holidays, some may be responded to by Mrs Johnstone and some by Mr Barrowman, following my instruction. If successes are shared by parents Mrs Johnstone, posts these onto our blog or dojo. Lots of e mails come into school each day from all sorts of sources. Sometimes a reply is required and sometimes not. If you require a response you only have to ask. If you do not hear back from us and need an answer to a question, please call us and talk to us. If no one is available in the school office, leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as is possible. We always try our very best to respond in a timeous manner.

Since taking up post in January 2017 I have been fully committed to the life and work Torphichen Primary School. As a learning community, our values reflect what we are about. We treat our parents, children and staff with respect, care and integrity. It is essential that we all adhere to these agreed values.

2. Scottish Focus

It has been brought to my attention that there have also been a number of complaints about our Scottish Focus fortnight.

In line with Curriculum for Excellence Building the Curriculum 1 and 3 and the principles and practices papers we are asked that:

‘Throughout this broad curriculum it is expected there will be an emphasis on Scottish contexts, Scottish cultures and Scotland’s history and place in the world. This planning should demonstrate the principles for curriculum design: challenge and enjoyment; breadth; progression; depth; personalisation and choice; coherence; relevance.’

‘The languages, dialects and literature of Scotland provide a rich resource for children and young people to learn about Scotland’s culture, identity and language. Through engaging with a wide range of texts they will develop an appreciation of Scotland’s vibrant literary and linguistic heritage and its indigenous languages and dialects.’

As such, we have a responsibility to create a curriculum which includes these principles, practices, experiences and outcomes.

3. Lighting System

The next issue raised was around the lighting system. Could this be explained as I don’t recall us, as a school, using the lighting system? (Mrs Johnstone)

Would you like the above three items to be recorded in a formal way as complaints on the council’s central system?

4. Trees and playground improvements

Mrs Johnstone will update you on the progress with the trees and playground as requested

5. Successes and Achievements

Since May 2017 we have managed major refurbishments within the school building and grounds with very little or no disruption to the learning experiences for our children. Our teams have pulled together to move furniture, set up new classrooms, create wonderful learning zones and maintain standards for all. A new nursery has been created, the keys have been handed over and we are all good to go for August 2018 as planned. My thanks extend to the teams for their patience and perseverance. The school and grounds look fantastic.

6. Resources

A number of new resources have been purchased this year including:

2 promethean boards

Science and Technology Equipment

ICT equipment

Art Resources

Literacy Interactive Resources – Bug Club to enhance the learning experience

Heinemann Interactive to enhance the learning experience in Numeracy

Group novels

Numeracy and Literacy Text books

Concrete Materials to support the learning in Numeracy

7. Supporting Learning

Our P3 and P6 groups are progressing very well. Mrs Johnstone has responsibility for the planning, implementation and assessment of children within these groups. This allows P7 to work as a stage group with Miss McGeachie, P5 as a year group to work with Mr Turnbull, P4 as a year group to work with Mrs Gallagher and P1/2 to work together with Mrs Telfer. Reduced numbers allow teachers to work more effectively with individuals to support and challenge. New individualised programmes are in place for pupil support teams to work with individuals wherever necessary.

8. Collaborative presentation shared– Mr Barrowman

9. Improvements from January 2017

As it has now been a year since I took post I would like to hear what you see as the greatest improvements in school over the past 12 months. Your views will then be included in our School Self Evaluation for June 2018.

10. Future Meetings

Are there any other items you would like us to share with you at the next meeting?