

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2020

TIME: 6PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

Maria Kerr agreed to send out email with links to the “How To” guides – completed

Fiona Donaghey to communicate to parents our focus on attainment – completed

Fiona Donaghey to send an email to parents with the link to the website for the most up to date Covid Information – completed

Establish what Outdoor Learning resources are required – ongoing

HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT

CORONAVIRUS – ONGOING SCHOOL LIFE

To date, we have had to isolate 3 classes, but there is still no evidence of transmission within the school community. There was an article published in the Glasgow Times on 03.11.20, but this information was out of date. We currently only have a few children self-isolating awaiting test results. Reminder sent out to parents from Chief Education Officer regarding their duty surrounding isolation. Nigel Rooke asked if staff have been impacted as yet? Whilst we have had to have some staff self-isolate, we have not yet been impacted to a critical level and have been able to manage all staffing levels in house. EDC are looking at potentially appointing more temporary covid cover staff but we have not yet had the need for external help. To date, where whole classes have had to self isolate, the teachers have been well enough to work from home and were engaging with their classes via Teams. If there was a situation where this was not the case, Senior Management would step in to facilitate home learning.

Hot meals were re-introduced on 02.11.20, being offered at the moment to P1-3 and to those pupils in P4-7 who are in receipt of a free school meal. We will be in the first phase of schools able to offer hot meals across the whole school when this is re-introduced because we have cashless catering. Hopeful that this will be within a few weeks (awaiting decision from authority).

Indoor PE can resume while we remain out of Tier 4. This will hopefully start next week once certain issues have been risk assessed so each class will have 2 PE slots per week (one indoor and one outdoor).

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS

EDC set up a Parent and Authority Consultation Group on reporting to parents and provided guidance to schools at the start of October.

The document states that *care should be taken not to try to replicate a parents meeting with a phone call or virtual meeting, but that it will always be the case that if a parent or the school has any concerns a meeting or phone call will take place.*

**** Action Point – Nigel Rooke to circulate a copy of this document.**

Lairdsland plan for communicating to parents is as follows:

Term 1 – We saw the return to school and settling in. There were then virtual “Meet the Teacher” videos shared on Teams.

Term 2 – Primary 1 pupils, and any other new pupils, will receive a settling-in call. An interim report will be sent home at the end of November, along with 2 snapshot pieces of work – one in numeracy and one in literacy.

An example of the Interim Report was shared. It is a comprehensive document showing the pupil’s progress and their next steps in numeracy and literacy, and a teacher’s comment. Curriculum levels will not be entered on this report.

Term 3 (provisional) – full school report towards the end of March.

Term 4 (provisional) – final summary / interim report (unless normal parent appointments can be reinstated)

It will be stressed to parents that they can contact the school and request a meeting or phonecall at any time if there is a specific issue or concern.

Nigel Rooke asked what the rationale was behind the decision not to do video calls or phonecalls with every parent. Whilst there has been nothing formal issued regarding this, it is most likely to do with issues involving infrastructure and input from Teaching Unions.

ONGOING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Maths Week – parent videos were shared across the school and the level of involvement was very encouraging.

Book Week – we will be looking for parents to volunteer to read stories via Teams and we are going to try and do a live session if possible too.

We continue to communicate via newsletters, the website and via Twitter Takeovers, where children can share what their class is doing. There were also virtual class catch ups on MS Teams for those classes who were self-isolating.

OUTDOOR LEARNING – PROGRESS

Kirsty Greer, Acting PT, has set up a central area for staff to share their ideas and there is training available for staff to build their capacity in outdoor learning. We are constantly looking at ways in which we can support staff and build their confidence in this area. Obviously the Scottish weather remains a challenge and it is important that we achieve the correct balance.

Evelyn Abernethy asked if we were still looking for outdoor clothing as Babes in the Wood have some for us. We are looking to obtain a bank of sizes of clothes and wellies we can hold for each class, which can be quarantined after each use.

**** Action Point – Fiona Donaghey to send Evelyn Abernethy Kirsty Greer’s email address so they can communicate to get the outdoor clothing Babes in the Wood have so far.**

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Continue to build capacity and staff for home learning and enabling being online on MS Teams, but we are still not ready for live lessons.

We are looking to increase our stock of IT equipment but there is obviously a huge demand at the moment so there is a backlog. One of the things we are looking to purchase is Visualisers (these act like little web cams so would allow for things like the virtual assemblies to be a lot more interactive).

PUPIL COMMITTEES

Maria Kerr outlined how we are finding new ways of working within current guidelines to allow for the Pupil Committees to operate. The easiest way to do this so that there was no crossing of class bubbles, was to assign each class a different committee. This has been rolled out as follows:

P7 – House Captains (appointed)

P6 – Vice Captains (appointed)

P5/6 – Pupil Council (appointed)

P5 – Eco Committee (appointed)

P4/5 – Sports Committee (interviews taking place at moment)

P4 – Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors (interviews taking place at moment)

Pupil Council is currently working with Miss Fraser (P2/3) planning activities for Children in Need.

Next Step - we have drafted a skeletal format for a letter which will be sent to parents shortly asking for their involvement in the committees. The vision is that the committee and teacher will be in school and the parent will be online via teams.

Next Step – still looking at ways that we can involve P1-P3.

ATTAINMENT

At the last meeting it was raised that attainment was a priority and getting back to core teaching and learning. The staff have been working on assessments and have been identifying what levels the children are at and what gaps there are in their learning. Meetings regarding tracking and monitoring have taken place between all teachers and management.

Next Step – to use a more formal approach of standardised assessments to see where the children are and what is required.

CHAIR'S REPORT

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT – UPDATE

This was adequately covered by Fiona Donaghey and Maria Kerr

AGM

The AGM will form part of the next Parent Council meeting in December (date TBC). This will be the last meeting for 2020.

Emma Alkirwi noted that some parents had been asking how they find out about what is discussed at the Parent Council meetings. The minutes should be publicised on the school website.

**** Action Point – Gaynor Furie to update website with minutes**

OTHER TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Inya Omoronyia raised the issue of uneven slabs outside the school which have caused a couple of falls.

**** Action Point - Nigel Rooke will speak to his contact at the council about these.**

Damian McEntee asked if social media is discussed with the children in school. Fiona Donaghey confirmed that whilst it is addressed as part of Health & Wellbeing, children of primary school age (under 12) shouldn't actually be on it. Tends to be discussed at P6/P7 level . Also, whilst school has no control over that aspect of the childrens' lives, if something is impacting on school life, obviously the school will try to intervene and support where possible.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Nigel Rooke has put in a proposal to try and get a large rainbow in the centre of town. The idea would be for all primary school children in Kirkintilloch to paint stones to form the rainbow. The proposal is currently with the council and looking hopeful that it will be approved.

MEETING DATES FOR 2020/2021

Final meeting of the year will be in December – date TBC