

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2020

TIME: 6PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

Gaynor Furie has been appointed Parent Council Clerk and will take minutes.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

SCHOOL RESTART 2020/21 – PROGRESS UPDATE

Initial ambiguity surrounding children with cold symptoms attending school has now been clarified by the Authority and absence rates have significantly decreased, although they are still slightly higher than average due to Covid symptoms.

Feeling is that routines within school are now well established with Risk Assessments constantly reviewed and updated in consultation with staff Trade Union reps. School had a visit from HSE – it raised no action points. Very positive with no follow up or action necessary.

To date, there have been no positive cases within the Lairdland school population. There are reports of positive cases within families but they are taking the appropriate measures in line with advice. Positive cases have been evident in other local schools.

Homework has recommenced via Teams and Teams pages are populated with additional resources and links to support short term absences. If the numbers of staff absences rise significantly, SMT are in a position to support. Comprehensive 'How To' guides have been prepared for parents, and links to these have been emailed. Although the use of Teams is being encouraged, paper copies of work can also be provided if required.

**** Action point** – Maria Kerr agreed to resend out an email with links to the 'How To' guides.

School Improvement Plan (renamed by the Authority as a Recovery Plan) is looking at 4 themes:

- 1) Health & Well Being
- 2) Transition
- 3) Family Engagement
- 4) Learning Loss

EDC are looking at a policy for Parent Night alternatives and have setup a Parent and Authority Consultation Group to this end. Nigel Rooke requested that any questions be sent to him before the Q&A session scheduled for October.

**** Action point** – Attainment is a priority with assessment ongoing to see what levels the children are at, and will teachers address the impact of lockdown on learning. Fiona Donaghey to communicate this focus to parents.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOCKDOWN - HOW PREPARED ARE WE NEXT TIME?

With digital learning a priority, staff confidence in Microsoft Teams has increased significantly and staff are now well prepared to move to remote learning as and when required. In the event of increased staff absences, Senior Management can support, and the Authority have employed a bank of staff to support this also. To date, staff absences have been manageable but there is a line of escalation if this becomes a problem.

EDC are to make more loan devices available across all levels and we have issued a glow form to try to establish the needs of individual pupils. The results will be collated and prioritised at Authority level. Follow up calls will be made to those who didn't engage with glow forms.

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS - UPDATE

As discussed at the previous meeting, the website has now been updated with the most relevant and up to date information. We have produced a QR code which will direct parents straight to that information. This code has been positioned around the school grounds, including on school gates and at reception. A tweet has also been pinned.

**** Action point** – Nigel Rooke requested that we send out an email to parents with the link to the website for this information.

OUTDOOR PLAY - UPDATE

Outdoor learning and play will continue to be encouraged but is a balance with the weather. There was some discussion around proposed structures to offer more shelter, provision and storage of waterproof clothing, and the practicalities surrounding this.

Fiona Donaghey confirmed that we have been able to use PEF money to appoint Kirsty Greer to a promoted post of Acting PT one day a week and she will take on the role 'outdoor learning champion'. She has attended an EDC meeting to look at a timetable and will look at resources next.

Nigel Rooke confirmed that he has had confirmation that the grant from the Ninevah Trust can be re-attributed.

Evelyn Abernethy spoke to her contact at Babes in the Wood and they have confirmed that they could put in a large referral for a donation of waterproof clothing.

Fiona Donaghey was asked if PEF money could be used for this purpose and she thought that could be possible. Next step is to establish what resources are required.

CHAIRS REPORT

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Nigel Rooke asked if there was a potential to utilise our parent volunteers in any capacity at this stage. Fiona Donaghey advised that current guidance discourages any additional people in the school as this brings with it increased levels of risk. FD would need to seek guidance from Authority on this. It was also raised by other members of the Parent Council that parents may not be happy with parent volunteers being utilised just now.

Nigel Rooke asked if there was a role for the likes of the Eco-Committee at the moment, for example is there a role for them on Teams.

FD acknowledged that this is our way of working for the foreseeable future so some consideration needs to be given to this and SMT are discussing how things may be able to be done going forward, and are considering the practicalities of it all.

AGM

At the end of the last meeting an AGM was proposed for the end of the year. This was acceptable to everyone.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other competent business.

MEETING DATES FOR 2020/2021

It was agreed that we would schedule meetings for October, November and December, with dates to be suggested.