

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2021

TIME: 6PM

MINUTE OF LAST MEETING / MATTERS ARISING.

Issue with children being able to access daily live sessions on Teams – all teachers are now pasting in the long meeting link and this seems to have addressed the problem.

Changes were made to both the website and individual class teams pages to show what resources are available to parents/carers.

Agreed that the home learning link will be added to any school correspondence whilst home learning continues.

Tech Support – SMcE and MK have discussed what this support would look like and we know what will be available if required.

Weekly parent check in sessions with Family Learning Assistant will start on Monday 22nd February.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

REMOTE LEARNING – PROGRESS AND UPDATE

Using parent survey data and local knowledge of families, we have completed a self evaluation of the school's delivery of Remote Learning. Around 40 of our children were provided with EDC loan devices to support remote learning (including chromebooks, iPads and mi-fi devices to access the internet). Management and staff have provided additional bespoke support to a number of these parents and pupils to build their capacity to use the devices effectively, which has resulted in almost all of these learners engaging with learning remotely.

All of our learners have access to daily check in times with their class teacher and peers. Across all classes, the majority of pupils attend daily live check ins.

Teachers continue to encourage pupil voice by asking pupils for ideas for the live meets.

The playground chat channel and virtual playtimes allow for contact with their peers and encourage peer relationships.

All teachers communicate new learning each week for literacy and numeracy through a variety of resources eg videos, voiced over powerpoints, links etc .

Teaching and Learning is clearly differentiated, with each group in literacy and maths being provided with one piece of new learning per week as well as consolidation tasks.

Pupils have opportunities to share their work digitally in a number of ways, eg photos, written work, edited documents, voice recordings etc. Families have been supported by staff and SLT to overcome technology barriers for sharing work digitally in a format that suits their device/needs.

There is a selection of optional learning for other curricular areas each week across all classes. For example, inter-disciplinary tasks allowing for application of literacy skills across the curriculum.

Paper and hard copies of resources have been provided to a few families who have been identified with a need for this to support home learning. Varied reasons include ASN, technology, shared devices amongst siblings etc.

Parent survey data (January 21) demonstrates that most parents are satisfied that the remote learning provided is pitched at an appropriate level to allow them to progress with their learning and furthermore, demonstrates that almost all parents feel that school staff have been supportive and have offered help where appropriate.

Weekly live assemblies are carried out with star nominations from home and staff, encouraging school values across the remote platform and during this period of home learning.

Pupil feedback - this was trialled via live meets with P6 but overall feeling among staff was that it may not work this way with younger children so a pupil survey was conducted instead. Starting to collate the data and so far, no huge surprises but will use results to see how we can adapt and improve.

Next steps for remote learning:

- Looking at collaborative tasks for the children (ie ways we can replicate class group work remotely).
- Consideration of SLT support sessions on Teams for certain children/groups. For example, to support children with dyslexia.
- Trying to create a community club bank of video resources, supported by parent volunteers, to develop life skills, talents or interests in pupils.

CORONAVIRUS – ONGOING SCHOOL LIFE

From Monday 22nd February, P1-3s will return to school and remote learning will continue for P4-7s (until at least 15th March).

The school is still open to children of key workers and vulnerable children in P4-7 and they will, with the support of staff in school, follow the remote learning programme set by their class teachers, who will continue to work from home. We do expect to see a small rise in the numbers of children in this category.

SLT have given consideration to the start & finish times for P1-3s in an attempt to minimise the number of adults congregating outside the school, discussing the possibility of either a soft start or a staggered approach across the years. The final decision on this will be communicated to parents this week. Whilst in school, the children will operate within their own class bubbles and zoned areas (as per pre-Christmas operations).

SMcE asked about the provision of school meals. The details of this have still to be confirmed, but FD anticipates a similar approach to pre-Christmas, with one hot meal being offered per day. Menu may alter slightly but if this is necessary, this will be communicated to parents.

Had contact tracing in school Sunday 15th Feb after a positive case was reported, but very few people have been affected. All parents of children attending school were advised.

COMMUNICATIONS TO PARENTS (INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF CHILDREN'S PROGRESS)

Updated guidance from EDC on reporting to parents was received this afternoon, and highlights consultation with staff and PC whilst ensuring that workload and Working Time Agreement for staff is considered.

Guidance does appreciate the difficulties surrounding reporting on remote learning, and does suggest that any written report may be more beneficial near the end of the session. Our next step is to discuss the best approach as we move into the next phases. This could possibly involve a phone call in place of a full written report.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We have made progress this term in all areas of the SIP, although this will have been affected by closure to a certain extent. Recovery priorities will remain the same for the next phases of reopening. The primary focus has been Health & Wellbeing but we are also looking at ways of supporting learning loss and looking at the progress that has been made via remote learning. It may involve some re-groupings when children return to school.

NR asked how this could be communicated to the wider parent community in order to manage expectations of parents when children return to school.

**** ACTION POINT – FD WILL DRAFT A LETTER TO PARENTS SUMMARISING PRIORITIES AND KEY POINTS OF THE RECOVERY PLAN**

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The centre is expected to be handed over to the Council in the coming weeks, but there is no official date as yet. There will be no children on site straightaway – anticipate that it could be the end of April before that happens. We do now have a staff team, who have been recruited centrally, and FD met with them virtually last week. They offer a wealth of experience in Early Years.

There are children already registered with the centre, but obviously they had to be placed elsewhere in the meantime. When the centre opens, they will be offered the opportunity to transfer but it may be that parents decide not to move them for their last term before starting school in August. There are about 40 children registered to commence next session.

NR raised the issue of PC for the EYC. It will likely be part of school Parent Council and nursery parents will be invited to join.

CHAIR REPORT

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We have requested parent volunteers but as yet, there has not been a great uptake – it could be that a lot of parents who would normally help in school may not be as comfortable doing this virtually.

NR is hopeful that going forward, virtual involvement may actually facilitate more volunteers from the wider parent community as those who would normally be restricted by work commitments would be able to get involved. We could continue to use videos once the children are back in school.

FD said we would be requesting parental involvement for World Book Day (4th March), either via live reading sessions or pre-recorded videos. General feeling is that live is better as nice to get some level of interaction with children.

EDC PARENT COUNCIL Q&A

SMcE went on our behalf and reported back to NR. No copy of the presentation received as yet but Sandra will request this from Jacqui MacDonald.

SMcE outlined the main issues that were raised:

- Transition Planning – this will go ahead as planned (virtually)
- Idea of repeating a year is not an option – Jacqui MacDonald has no doubts that teachers can bring children up to date.
- Return to school – important to balance H&W and learning, but H&W will be first priority.
- Suggestion that there may be additional funding being made available.

CH asked what our transition plan would be for the new P1 intake. FD anticipates that it is likely to be similar to that of last year but because of online registration this year, we don't have details of our numbers yet. Once we have that information, we will reach out to nurseries. Natalie Swart will be coordinating this and hoping to start very soon. Last year we facilitated on site visits for those pupils requiring enhanced transitions and it's likely to be the same this year.

P7 transitions will also take place virtually and Lenzie Academy have already been in touch to arrange their head of S1 joining a Teams meeting soon. They have also organised for some S3s to come on to the meeting and talk to the P7s.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None

MEETING DATES FOR 2020/2021

16th March 2021