

# MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

**LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS**

**DATE: TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**TIME: 5.30PM**

## **MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING**

Minute of last meeting was agreed.

## **HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

### **SCHOOL LIFE**

Within the current restrictions we have been able to organise some traditional Christmas activities for the children including year group Christmas parties, an online Pantomime by Mugdock and a Christmas lunch. The children have also been involved in making Christmas crafts which will be sold to raise money for the PTA.

EDC guidance surrounding residential trips has recently been eased and this has meant that we have been able to organise a trip for our P7s. Due to other authorities lifting some restrictions earlier, availability has been limited, however we have managed to secure a booking for Lockerbie Manor in February 2022. Although Lairdsland have never used this site before, it receives excellent reviews from other schools within the authority and their online presentation was well received by the parents.

### **HOMEWORK SURVEY**

As agreed in the last minute, a homework survey was sent to parents and carers to try and gain feedback on the provision/format of homework. We received a total of 88 responses, with all stages being represented. This rate of response (30%) is considered to provide a viable statistical result. The results were analysed and it was concluded that there would be no major changes to the format – homework will continue to be issued on a weekly basis in Numeracy, Spelling and Reading. We will try to offer a combination of digital and paper based homework. We will also try to offer a couple of activities per term in other curricular areas after 36% said they would like to see homework in these areas. Only 15% of respondents said “no homework”.

### **ISSUES RELATING TO COVID**

There are ongoing staff, and pupil, absences due to Covid, but continuity of staffing for the children remains a priority. Recent changes to guidelines have caused some confusion but all parents have been referred back to the Scottish Government guidelines. We continue to ensure that all our procedures are adhered to such as regular handwashing and sanitising, staggered break times and

adults wearing masks when moving around the school. To date we are managing to keep our numbers relatively low in comparison with other schools.

NR questioned, if the school was forced to close without much advance warning, are we geared up for a return to digital learning? FD is confident that this would be possible at short notice. All P1s have been issued with Teams logins and the staff would likely stick to Teams but use Seesaw for reminder videos etc.

### **EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

The centre has been open for 6 months now and a questionnaire was sent out to parents to gain feedback. There were 44 replies, which accounts for approximately half the families.

98% agreed / strongly agreed that staff supported their children to settle into nursery

93% agreed / strongly agreed that they were kept well informed

98% agreed / strongly agreed that their child enjoys their time at nursery.

These results will be shared with the parent community in the EYC.

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2021/22**

Global Goals assembly programme – whilst individual classes all did very well, there was not a massive uptake by the parent community.

COP26 Parent task – we received 2 powerpoint presentations and 7 YouTube videos from parents. NR complimented the staff on how well the school had captured COP26 and commented on how well the topic was covered.

We have parent members on the Sports Committee and the Eco Committee but there has not been a good response for parental involvement with the Pupil Council. We will need to go back and address this.

We have been able to re-introduce a P7 Football Club afterschool with a parent helper being able to be involved due to it being held outside.

We had a good response to the class assemblies.

### **PTA UPDATE**

Evelyn Abernethy made a plea on behalf of the PTA. To date they have been unable to recruit anyone to the position of Chair, but in an attempt to stop the PTA folding, EA will step up on a temporary basis. Claire Henderson will be Vice Chair and Lynsey Hill will remain as treasurer. The PTA have organised a Christmas Raffle but the response has not been great. It was suggested that fundraising may be more successful if parents were given details of a specific target for a specific activity, for example, the PTA has historically paid for swimming lessons for Primary 5 children. There was considerable discussion around different ideas for fundraising and suggestions of what might help going forward.

EA asked if anyone had any contacts in P1/P2 who might be interested in getting involved in the PTA and spreading the word.

**ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

None

**MEETING DATES FOR 2021/22**

25th January @ 5.30pm (there will be another discussion to see if the revised arrangements suit)

22nd March

3rd May

14th June