

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 25th JANUARY 2022

TIME: 5.30PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

Minute of last meeting was agreed.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

COVID UPDATE

The weeks following the return to school after the Christmas break have proved our most challenging to date, recording our highest numbers of pupil and staff absences since the start of the pandemic. As a result, the outbreak protocol is currently being deployed within the school. We are continuing with our bubble approach with no indoor mixing of classes, and children have returned to eating their lunch in their classrooms. We are still allowing the mixing of classes outside within year groups. Changes to isolation guidelines in early January caused some initial confusion among parents but this has now been overcome. Despite staffing challenges, we have succeeded in keeping all classes staffed and this remains our priority. With pupil absences at their highest levels since the start of the pandemic, and in a bid to maintain a balance between home learning and in class teaching, we did put tasks on Seesaw for those children self-isolating. We are hopeful that we will now start to see an improvement in our numbers, with early signs this week of a decline in the number of positive cases.

NR praised the staff at Lairdland for coping with the unprecedented challenges faced by Covid, and for always managing to get a teacher in front of the class, and asked for this praise to be communicated to the staff as a whole.

We have been able to begin to re-introduce a variety of extra-curricular activities, both afterschool and at lunchtimes, and these have been offered in the first instance to the upper school (P4-P7). Some of the activities on offer have included netball, crafts, baking, Taskmaster and Scripture Union. Due to operating in class bubbles at the moment, we are having to offer some of the clubs to classes on alternate weeks to avoid mixing of classes.

Going forward we are hoping to be able to offer some afterschool clubs to our P1s, P2s and P3s. All members of the parent council were keen for this to happen as soon as it is possible and there was some discussion around the possibilities of what could be offered to our younger pupils. There was also some discussion about the re-introduction of our chess club which spans a variety of year groups and FD is hopeful that we may be able to mix year groups before the end of this term.

We are also managing to offer some trips to our pupils, with the P7 residential trip to Lockerbie Manor mid February, and a P6 trip to the Science Centre during the first week in February.

Miss Swart sent out a Nurture Questionnaire last week, but we have only received 30 responses so far, so the link will be sent out again.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2021/22

As discussed at a previous parent council meeting, we have managed to appoint a parent representative on our Sports Committee and Eco Committee, but to date, we don't have a parent representative on the Pupil Council. Mrs Paterson sent out a communication today asking for help with this and we are now hopeful that we have filled this position.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

EDC have just agreed a contract with Lifelink – a counselling service for age 10+.

We are taking part in SAMH "Let's Talk" which is a fully funded project that will offer workshops to parents, staff and pupils. We will provide updates and more information as it is available. It has been piloted in Glasgow South and the evaluations all look very positive.

Maria Kerr spoke about Mindfulness – we have now started a whole school mindful breathing session which takes place daily at 2.40pm. Each class will also have a second breathing session at a time that is appropriate to their individual class timetable. We have also started a weekly mindfulness lesson on a Friday morning for all P2s – P7s. We have purchased an 8 week resilience based programme which will be rolled out in August.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

During term 1, we conducted parent evening phonecalls and we are looking to offer this approach again in late March. EDC is currently piloting a video call approach. Two primary schools are piloting this and we will wait for their feedback, and may offer this next session.

****ACTION POINT** FD to do a parent survey and get feedback on the video call approach**

NR expressed concern that EDC may be considering this as a Long Term solution if they are investing in it. There was unanimous opinion among Parent Council members that this would not be preferable to face to face meetings. NR asked to be made aware of any opportunities for consultation on this subject and will go along if it comes up at the forum.

With regards to examples of a pupil's work being shared on Seesaw, it was agreed at a staff meeting, that good practice would be for one piece of numeracy, one piece of literacy and one piece of work in another curricular area to be shared per term. This will help to achieve consistency across all classes.

EA asked if the Seesaw settings are controlled by teachers as there appeared to be differences between the accounts of each of her children. Some differences mentioned included the ability to like something on Seesaw and when commenting, sometimes getting the message "pending approval".

**** Action Point ** FD will confirm this with Miss Hill and ensure consistency across all settings on Seesaw**

ROADWORKS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We were made aware of a temporary closure of the parking area in front of the school playground, but it was discovered today that they have also shut off the footpath to the Greens. We were not given prior warning of this and the path is used widely by our parents and children so could cause considerable disruption.

****ACTION POINT** FD going to contact the builders for more information and try to make an arrangement for the path to be open for at least part of the day.**

OUTDOOR LEARNING

NR commented that he has received great feedback from his children on all the outdoor learning initiatives that they have been enjoying of late. FD will pass this on to Mrs Greer.

REVIEW OF MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

Parent Council members are happy for the meetings to continue on Teams, but a majority felt that the start time of 5.30pm is becoming difficult to manage. It was agreed that for the remainder of this session, the meetings will commence at 6pm, with another review at the end of the year.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None

MEETING DATES FOR 2021/22

22nd March @ 6.00PM

3rd May

14th June