

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 2022

TIME: 6.00PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

The minute of the last meeting was agreed and the action points discussed:

It was decided by school management team not to survey parents on their views of a video call approach to parents evening but instead to keep a watching brief on this issue as Covid measures are lifted, and will respond accordingly. A second parent phone call was offered to all parents in March. As covid restrictions continue to ease there could be a degree of flexibility on the pattern of reporting.

FD contacted the builders regarding the closure of the path and they agreed to keep it open at drop off and pick up times, and we will continue to keep the lines of communication open as future matters arise.

FD addressed the issue of consistency across all Seesaw settings and this should now be rectified.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

COVID UPDATE

The recent surge in the number of Covid cases has had a significant impact on staffing. This has also been the case in the Early Years Centre, where we had to deploy school staff during the worst affected period just to keep the Centre open. Support from HO has been provided, however it has been a problem across all schools and centres in EDC. The latest guidance (released today) which outlines an end to isolation and lateral flow testing by the end of April should have a positive impact.

The most up to date guidance for next term shows greater easing of restrictions with prospects of a return to parents evenings/open evenings in person.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

As discussed at the last meeting, we have been able to get some extra curricular clubs up and running again and have now introduced clubs/opportunities for some infant stages. Eg P2 art club, P3 chess during right to play and a P3 Cooking Club. Some of these have been affected by staff absences but will be re-scheduled during the summer term.

SCHOOL TRIPS

The P6s and P7s have enjoyed a trip to the Science Centre this term and the P7s recently enjoyed their residential trip to Lockerbie Manor in February. The P3s are going to take part in a local area trip and we will be making plans for summer trips soon.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2021/22

To date this has been restricted by guidance and the recent hike in cases but hopefully, in accordance with new guidance, we should be able to welcome parents back into the school after the Easter break.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Lifelink Counselling service has started and we can refer children age 10 and above. We have taken up the offer of SAMH presentations for our P6 and P7 pupils and these will be taking place after the Easter break:

19th and 20th April for the following workshops for all p6 and p7 pupils

- Mental Health Awareness
- Understanding and Managing Stress and Anxiety

There should also be workshops coming soon for parents on similar themes.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Teaching staff recently attended EDC CPD sessions on approaches to teaching reading and writing. Teaching staff have been involved in peer visits looking at practice in mental maths strategies and the teaching of writing. This will continue into next term.

SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Transition visits will take place during next term for nursery to P1 and also for P7 to S1. DHT's are liaising with secondary schools and Miss Swart is liaising with the nurseries. At present we have 37 new p1s registered, but there may be more after Placing Requests are considered. Once we have confirmed numbers, we will look at the class structure for next year.

RSHPE

This is a new national resource for sexual health and relationships being rolled out across all schools. There was meant to be a parent consultation within EDC but that didn't happen and some schools have started using these lessons this session. We will be looking to move to this resource next session. Some staff have attended training this session and we will look to plan a parent information session or leaflet.

**** ACTION POINT **** FD will circulate the website link for RSHPE so that Parent Council members can have a look at the lesson contact for each year group and give feedback at the next meeting.

NURTURE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

PARENTS

We recently issued a nurture questionnaire to all parents and 32 parents responded. The results are summarised below:

- 96% of respondents said Lairdsland Primary School is very welcoming.
- 77% of respondents said they feel involved with school life.
- 83% of respondents said that their school supports them and their child extremely well.
- 85% of respondents felt that Lairdsland Primary School does enough to praise and encourage children, and make them feel valued.
- 83% of respondents said that our school helps develop their children's confidence.
- 85% of respondents felt that Lairdsland had helped their children to understand and control their emotions.

PUPILS

An anonymous and varied sample selection of 30 children were also surveyed, the results of which are summarised below:

- 93% of children said they felt safe in school and felt that Lairdsland Primary School was welcoming.
- 87% of children said their teachers were encouraging and supportive, with 80% of children saying they felt supported by all members of school staff.
- 60% of children scored "School helps develop my confidence" highly, with 33% giving the middle score and 7% giving the lowest score.

FD reported that some of the younger children are even needing support to play and commented that Covid has definitely had an impact in this area.

SMcE asked if there was anything in the plan to try to help encourage the children to play and interact with their peers again eg. Sharing and taking turns, accepting when they lose a game etc. FD assured her that the school is trying to do this in different ways. For example, weekly hot chocolate nominations for displaying school values. We are also reminding children about the rules of play and doing restorative chat. We are also heavily utilising the school nurse service this term.

NR asked if there were any differences being noticed within the school post Covid. FD replied that it was difficult to provide a definitive answer on that as there is quite a variation across the board.

There was a discussion regarding homework and the variety of spelling activities being issued and books being assigned on Bug Club. As Literacy leader, Mrs Bradford was going to look at this across the school.

ANY OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

EA raised the issue of cars being parked again outside the gym all fire doors. NR has raised this before with Thomas McMenamin (EDC Executive Officer – Roads and Environment) and all the boats were lettered via EDC's legal team.

****Action Point** NR will raise this with them again. He will email them and copy in FD and Greg Bremner. In the meantime, FD will keep an eye on it and put letters on windscreens of offending vehicles.**

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None

MEETING DATES FOR 2021/22

3rd May @ 6.00pm (TEAMS)

14th June