

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2022

TIME: 6.00PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

The minute of the last meeting was agreed and there was discussion regarding the following action points:

Website Update - With the exception of the list of Parent Council members for this academic session, webmaster have completed all updates within the Parent Zone on the website. GF chased 12/12/22 but will monitor and chase again.

Dangerous parking – Following the construction work in the area, the road opposite the parking bays at the end of the playground was resurfaced thereby covering over the double yellow lines. To date, they have still not been reinstated. One of the problems is that even if there are double yellow lines there, they are not enforceable without a sign being present. Parents were reminded about road safety and dangerous parking in the December newsletter. NR will take it up with the council.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

We have experienced significant staffing challenges this term, especially at the Early Years Centre, with numerous staff absences. Despite this, we have managed to meet our ratios and have not yet had to close the centre but it has proved very challenging and we have had to pull staff from everywhere just to be able to offer a service. We have now appointed a Depute Head of Centre who is very experienced and has extensive background in early years and management so we are hopeful that things will settle down once they are in the post.

We are all aware from the media about the rising number of cases of Strep A. It is very important that our office staff establish the reason for a pupil absence as there is a requirement for us to report confirmed cases. We are reinforcing hand hygiene measures.

During the past week we have received a high number of food bank and toy donations. Miss Quail is working in partnership with East Dunbartonshire food bank and last week received over 100 Christmas food parcels which have been distributed to families in need. She is also working in partnership with Babes in the Wood (Bishopbriggs) and today we have received donations that will help approximately 20 families which is excellent.

We continue to remind our parent/carer community about the help that we can provide.

Green Friday was a huge success with lots of families able to benefit. The children also received a very positive message about recycling and reusing of items. It was even featured in the Kirky Herald!

Canal safety & freezing temperatures – following the tragic events in England this week we sent a communication to all parents and carers about the dangers surrounding frozen bodies of water, and every teacher addressed the issue with their class and spoke to the children. We felt it was extremely important to do this given the proximity of the school to the canal. EDC have now sent a formal “winter safety” communication which will be issued tomorrow but we wanted to get this information out as quickly as possible to our school community.

Strike Action – we have already had one strike day this term and there is another one planned for primary schools on 10th January 2023. More information will follow when it is available. Each council has to decide what closures there will be, and when this information is available from Headquarters, it will be communicated out to parents & carers via Groupcall.

Bollards – there has been significant concern regarding the installation of bollards outside the school in terms of safety in the event of a fire, and access for emergency vehicles. There is a current ongoing investigation as to who was responsible for the bollards being erected, and whether or not there is a key to lower them, and if there is a key, who holds it. The owner of one of the boats at the Marina, Craft daft on a raft, is also in talks to try and find out as she is concerned about the safety of residents in the event of a fire or medical emergency.

****ACTION POINT**** NR will email Thomas McMenamin and find out what is going on.

This has been a very busy term with lots happening in the run up to Christmas. Parents and carers of P4 & P5 pupils were invited in to school to enjoy their Scottish Assembly. The PTA have organised a number of fundraising activities this term including a Santa dash and a movie night, which was very well attended. Combined they have hopefully raised a good amount for the school (amount still to be confirmed by the PTA). They had also planned a Christmas raffle but this has been postponed until the new term to ease the pressure on parents and carers during what is already an expensive period. M&M Productions will be in school on Monday 19th to perform their pantomime, Christmas jumper day is also on the 19th and year group parties will take place during this week and next. The children can enjoy “Lairdslands Got Talent” and Santa on a bike next week. It’s been very busy and there is a lovely buzz around the school.

CHAIR’S REPORT

NR began by opening up the floor for questions. There was a question as to whether there had been any changes to the catering suppliers and whether or not we had witnessed a drop in the number of pupils taking school dinners? FD said that although there had been some changes made to the menu for nutritional purposes, there are still high numbers of children taking a school dinner. FD agreed to keep an eye on this, but explained that the catering service is centralised and as such the school itself has no say in the menu or the suppliers used.

Another question raised was that of a church service at Christmas time? FD explained that the school have reached out to the Church since Rev Dillon left but there has been no communication from them,

and there was some speculation as to whether or not there is a permanent replacement in post yet. NR and SMCe both agreed to see if they could find out any information.

NR requested that any topics for discussion at the next meeting be emailed to him in advance so that they could be added to the agenda.

MEETING DATES FOR 2022/23 (6pm on Teams):

31st January

21st March

2nd May

13th June