

BPS Parent Council Meeting

Monday 05/10/2020 / 7:00pm / Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Tracy Lambie **TL** (chair), Carolyn Hopcroft **CH** (secretary), Laura Wallace **LW** (treasurer), Paula Ross **PR** (Headteacher), Lorraine Beggs **LB**, Iain Moore **IM**, Alison McCorquodale **AMc**, Laura Langford **LL**, Jacqui Anderson **JA**, Julie Connell **JuC**, Aileen Hepburn **AH**, Jim Davidson **JD**, Julie Allinson **JuA**, Razan Akkari **RA**

Apologies

John Clink **JC**, Luise Siekman **LS**, Linda Menzies **LM**, Jillian Kinney **JK**,

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from previous meeting on 08/06/2020 were agreed by the group.

Welcome

- **TL** welcomed everyone to the meeting which is the first of this academic year, and in particular welcomed new members who have shown interest in joining the Parent Council.

Headteacher's update from Mrs Ross

PR also welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The following points were communicated:

- Current school roll is 312, with a full staffing complement. New members of staff this year are Mr Paterson, Miss McNeill (class teachers) and Mrs Isles (to cover CCT time)

Covid 19 update

- It has been a very different return to school this session than normal. The school are following council rules which include no visitors, no school photographers, no trips or residential excursions at present.
- **P7 Leavers Hoodies** - these have been arranged by P7 parents for the past few years and are usually worn on the residential trip and thereafter on gym days. It was clarified that if

parents want to arrange these again, they can do so and that P7 pupils can wear them on gym days from January onwards. It was asked that hoodies are limited to one per pupil.

- **School Dinners** - the new process of school dinners is getting faster and generally all pupils are in and fed by 12.45pm. Only 3 classes now eat their packed lunch in the classroom.

If a child in a class near the end of the lunch session has not finished eating, they are allowed to finish their lunch before returning to their classroom.

Classes being admitted to the dining room are rotated now so that it is not the same class or year group every day who are eating last.

The lunchtime process is continually being reviewed and tweaks are being made when required.

- Mrs Ross explained that normally by this time of year the school would have already engaged with parents through Meet The Teacher, Parent Council, Class Assemblies etc.

This year however the recovery plan has been the main priority and the focus has been on settling the children back into school. Moving forward, the school hopes to engage more with parents and keep parents more in the loop with their childrens' education.

- **Curriculum** - Health and Well Being has been a big part of the new term. Helping the children feel safe returning to school and learning the new rules has been a focus. In general, the children have settled in very well and are following the rules well. School are addressing the needs of any children who have struggled coming back.
- Academic progress has been reviewed and any gaps in learning have been addressed. Where this is an issue, parents will be contacted directly by the school.
- Mrs Ross clarified that the guidance has been that children do not pick up from where they were in March, but after some initial revision they are now working where they should be currently. Any identified gaps in learning will be plugged. The school are currently working to meet the needs of any children who are not on track.
- **Improvement plan** - the focus here has been to promote the positive health and well being of children and young people. The school has engaged parents, pupils and staff through the recent survey and also the children have been completing a well being tool.
- HWB curriculum has been amended to ensure that the P5, 6 and 7 pupils will still get the relationships and sexual health education which they missed out on in May during lockdown. This will be delivered fairly soon and parents will be given prior notice.

- **Developing parental engagement** - the school are currently looking at how they can increase parental engagement during the current situation. Ideas are welcome and may include eg virtual school assembly, some form of parents' night. This would not be in the form of a virtual parents' night however the Council are presently looking at options for this.
- **Attachment and Resilience Principles** - these are primarily to help the school understand how your child feels and to decrease stress levels. Some children and families have new stresses as a result of Covid. The Authority and the school are working together on this and all staff are being heavily trained on this including how to diffuse a situation and decrease anxieties. This training will also be shared with parents and carers in due course.
- **Planning for Equity** - this involves reidentifying the poverty attainment gap. Circumstances may have changed over the past few months for families with finance etc and school will be looking at this again. Examples include identifying those who need support with electronic devices in order to be able to do remote learning.
- Mrs Ross reported that children have been assessed in maths, reading, spelling and phonics since returning to school in August. Their level of engagement after a break of 5 months has been looked at. Children who do not seem to be following their natural trajectory are being kept a close eye on.
- Growth mindset is continuing to be reinforced. 'I can, I will...'
- ASP meetings will still go ahead but will no longer be face to face.
- **Google Classroom** - the school are looking at different models incase they were to close again or move to blended learning. Each class will have 2 weeks' worth of work ready to be issued, on google classroom. This is likely to be in the format of a mini topic which would address literacy, numeracy and other curricular area. This would be for 2 weeks only and thereafter the class teacher will bring in their normal daily work. These measures are all in place in the event of school closing at short notice or pupils / staff having to isolate at short notice.
- **Cost of School Day** - this requires constant vigilance and the school aim to subsidise where possible and give plenty warning where possible also.
- **Continuity of Learning** - staff have been doing training in online teaching and sharing their own knowledge and skills. This should ensure a more consistent approach to online teaching throughout the school.

- **Learning at Home** - school will shortly be sharing with parents and carers how home learning should be done and how feedback will be provided. Handouts will be issued in the near future with instructions on google classroom etc.
- **Pupil Voice** - P7 ambassador application forms have been completed, and interviews will be held for the roles soon. P7 teachers are keen for the pupils to have roles and responsibilities. These positions will commence shortly after the October break.
- Mrs Ross concluded her report with emphasising that the school want to become more involved with parents through regular feedback and updates. The priority at the start of term was to settle the pupils back into school. They now look forward to increasing communication with parents.

The school are as ready as possible for any of the three scenarios to occur - continue as normal, move to blended learning or school closure.

Matters Arising

- **AMc** asked if P1 pupils would be issued with their Glow log in details soon. Mrs Ross advised that they already have their log ins and that P7 pupils have been helping them to log on.
- **JuA** asked if the school were to move to blended learning, has there been any advice about children of key workers. Mrs Ross advised she has not heard anything about this at present.
- **JA** raised concern that those eating packed lunches in their classroom had lack of social interaction as they are not permitted to turn their chairs around to speak to friends etc. Would it be possible for them to have a more social lunchtime with their year group.\

Mrs Ross explained that children eating their packed lunch in the classroom do so during class time ie. 12-12.15pm, therefore they actually get a longer lunch break and more time to play outside than those eating in the dining hall. Mrs Ross is hoping to get more children through the dining hall eventually as the infant pupils become faster with the process but agreed that they will also look at swapping the classes who are eating in class around.

Update from Treasurer

- **LW** reported that the current balance is healthy at £7120.33.

- The only expenses last year were the Halloween Disco and some small general expenses for bits and bobs.
- It was agreed that the Parent Council will give money to the previous P7 pupils for them to have a belated Leaver's party.
- A cheque for £3500 will be issued to the school this year.

Fundraising

- **AH** asked about the possibility of doing Christmas cards again this year. The profit from this last year was £420 and the feedback from families was very positive. It was agreed that we will do this again and **JuA** has agreed to take the lead on this. Hopefully Parent Pay can be used for payment of Christmas cards and designs for cards can begin this week.

Mrs Ross highlighted that pupils will not be allowed to exchange cards to each other in school.

- **TL** asked the group what feelings were around other fundraising this year. **JA** felt in the current climate and with a healthy bank balance, that we should have a year off fundraising. The general consensus was to agree with this and that we will put a pause on fundraising for now.
- Easy Fundraising could be reiterated closer to Christmas.
- A small virtual fundraiser closer to Easter next year may be a possibility eg. a virtual balloon race or virtual duck race. This can be discussed again at later meetings.
- Mrs Ross reminded everyone that dress down day is this Friday 9th October and pupils bring £1 for school funds to come dressed down.

Any Other Business

- **TL** has been in contact with Mrs Montgomery to see if the Parent Council could have a page on the school app. This has been granted and **TL** asked if anyone could assist in writing / proof reading what we put on our page. Volunteers are **CH, JD, LL** and **LW**.
- **TL** brought up the subject of application for charity status. **JuA** has started the application form for this and will look at it again and discuss with **LW** the treasurer.
- **IM** informed the group that he is currently working with student teachers on a project related to teaching science to pupils, and is looking for any teachers who would like to contribute questions for this. Mrs Ross has asked him to send a brief summary about the project to the school and she will disseminate to staff.

Date of next meeting

To be arranged, but will be in November 2020, on Zoom again.

