

## Papdale Parent Council 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 6 pm

Present: Katie, Jocelyn, Tanya, Nicola, Anne, Jane, Kevin, Rachael, Audrey, Ruth, Jo, Shayron,

1. Apologies: Paula, Anthea, Inga, Karen, Karyn, Lorna, Leah

Jo Tait was acting as chair tonight. Thanks to Jo for keeping the meeting on track and on time.

2. **Minutes** of the last meeting of 4/12/17 were approved by Jo and seconded by Audrey.
3. **Anne Harrison of the school meals service** came to the meeting to update us on the progress and changes. In 2017 there has been a working group with experts to look at the food provided in schools and ensure certain regulations are adhered to such as aiming for five portions of fruit or veg a day and that the regulations are reflecting recent health and food and health and obesity areas. It is hoped in April 2018 a report will be sent to the government and that an online consultation will proceed and be agreed with comments from schools, parent councils, head teachers etc. Then the proposals will be instated with reasons why through up to date medical research. Anne also said that the pupil survey about school meals would be issued again either later this term or early next term.
4. **Head teachers report** -2018 is the year of the young people. Bruce Adamson the Commissioner for children and young children in Scotland was in Orkney for a conference in KGS about "growing up in Orkney". He attended Papdale and met P6/7 pupils from Glaitness and Papdale, he was very engaged with the children and asked about what they liked about living in Orkney both good and bad and what would they like to see in the future. He explained his role was to listen to children and help them and that everyone has a right and responsibility to learn and allow everyone to learn. They were also all given a "stress star" which is like a stress ball which was warmly received.

Lindsay Taylor from the RSPB has been visiting class P1-3 to discuss the Big bird watch. She did a presentation at the business meeting and produced a sheet which helps to identify common birds in Orkney.

Steven Miller is now employed as a Support for Learning Teacher at Papdale. There is going to be a "Workshop" room which is for alternative curriculum for some P1-7 pupils who struggle with conventional approaches to learning. It is hoped they may find it easier to learn in smaller groups and look at more practical life skills as well as literacy and numeracy. There will also be a "Pitstop" room which will look at emotional social difficulties to look at issues such as anger management, friendships and how to cope with different situations. This will also be for a range of children.

There will also be a "bereavement group" run by Manda Balfour in March which will look at offering support and counselling after bereavement of an immediate family member. IT is hoped the children will be able to talk through there grief. IT is then hoped she will train members of staff from within Papdale so the group can continue.

The Belkies came to play before Christmas to launch their CD which was great fun in the PE Hall and inspiring for all the musical children at Papdale.

Inservice days are Thursday, Friday this week. Teachers have the opportunity to go to the KGS with all staff across Orkney to look at moderation of writing and numeracy and discuss children's work and where they are at in relation to the curriculum level. There will also be a

Webinar with Edinburgh to discuss the SNSA Scottish National Assessments to use to back up where children are and assess across the whole of Scotland. The results will then be used as statistics to compare the Primary Schools across Scotland. The assessments are for P1, P4, P7 classes and are taken when a teacher feels a child is at the end of the curriculum of excellence.

Staffing- there is a meeting this week but there is no talk of changes to the structure, so it is expected to be three P1 classes and 2 full P7 classes and a half...unsure of how the P7 classes will be structured as at present there is a P6/7 class where half the class will be going to the grammar. The children will be asked what they think and there may well be another meeting with the parent council to discuss.

5. **Anti-bullying policy.** Morag Miller has led a team to produce this comprehensive policy. It covers many different types of bullying. Kevin filled out a feedback form on behalf of the parent council. It was felt the policy covered many different areas of bullying.

6. **The parents evening is 21/22 March.** The parent council will do a bake sale and raffle again. **Jo will make a rota for this and will send a letter to the office to request donations of baking and raffles from parents. Jo will check whether there are raffle tickets and price tags and cover two boxes for the hampers. Ruth will provide a float.** It is expected the parents evening will be offered as previously with a late night and an after school slot.

**Disco** – it was agreed a disco for the end of term either 28/29<sup>th</sup> March pre-school and P1 4-5 pm, P2-3 5.30-6.30 pm and P4-7 7-8 pm. Some P7 boys have offered to DJ, **Tanya will ask Lesley Spence to do the entertainment, Kevin will check with staff as we need to have two teachers per disco willing to attend/ help. Ruth will source glow sticks things to sell etc, crisps, juice and provide a float...**

Rachal asked about whether World Autism day would be celebrated between the 26 March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Jane will look in to it but said Downs Syndrome and Diabetes day were also to be highlighted.

David and Katie Foulis have kindly offered to sponsor the netball strips for the P6/7 girls. Leah went in to ask about prices for strips and they kindly volunteered to sponsor the strips. Katie asked about looking at the use of plastics during playtimes crisp packets and the discouragement of children taking plastic tubs with snack to the playground and asked whether something could help with holding the plastic tubs which held fruit etc in. Such as a bucket at a school line so children could place their tub in a bucket to go back to class so they didn't have to carry the tub around all through playtime. Jane and Kevin will ask Michele and the Eco-club to look in to this.

Meeting closed 7:05 pm.

**Date of next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 6pm.**