

# Meeting of Papdale Parent Council Monday 10 February 2020 at 5.30pm

In Attendance: Tanya Blowfield (Chair), Joanne Tait, Ruth Drever, Wendy Bowen, Kevin Balfour, Tracy Linklater, Lorna Robertson, Rachel Thomson, Dawn Stanger, Nicola Reid (minutes).

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Katie Croy, Shayron Mooney and Craig Spence.

## **2. Minute of Previous Meeting (25 November 2019) & Matters Arising**

The parent council meal out went well.

The extra planning meeting took place in January. Feedback from the music night is on tonight's agenda.

It was agreed to try the later time of 6pm for our next PC meeting to see if this suits people better (especially those working until 5pm)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by Ruth Drever, seconded by Joanne Tait.

## **3. Head Teacher Report**

Wendy delivered the following report:-

Thank you! The discos were great fun and the coffee evening was very well received by all that attended, great work! Thank you all for your super work. It is very much appreciated.

### **Staffing**

Jo Hill is currently working in Papay as HT. As a new HT has now been appointed we expect Jo to return soon.

Michelle Kennedy will start maternity leave after the Easter holidays, we will be organising cover over the course of the next term.

### **SFL**

Julie Muir has been working with large groups of pupils to support them. Focus is mainly on literacy and language and this is helping to raise attainment levels.

Additional Supported Class - Mrs Tait and Mrs Foubister are working with a number of pupils in the new learning space, this gives nurture time to small groups of pupils. The work is very positive. This is only a short-term project with funding until 31 March 2020.

Additional funding for support assistants has been provided but the challenge is staff recruitment.

### **Attainment**

The authority have set attainment targets. I am pleased to report that our predicted results in P4 and P7 are at or above the targets set. This means that we are on track to achieve the

targets set within the school improvement plan. In P1 the predicted levels are slightly below the council target but there is still time to work on this. We expect that this figure will rise.

### **In-service**

Effective teaching and learning - looking at the way in which we teach the theory and practice. Considering differentiation in the class linked with Rosenshines Principles of how children learn and retain information.

Looking at workload - planning and homework

Restorative practice - whole school as part of the relationships policy

Workload - planning

### **Staff Training**

SRS - Sound Reading System Dianne McGuinness looking at the development of reading and spelling. This training will take place over the last week of term, staff being out for 4 days. There is an expectation that they will begin to use this approach in their classes. Classes have been part of a bigger research project to identify impact. This work will form part of our improvement plan next year. Staff from P1-4 are attending but we would want to roll the programme out to the whole school.

### **Decanting of pupils for final term.**

P1 moving to P7 classrooms

P7 moving to KGS classrooms

### **Sponsored Walk**

Wednesday 1 April 2020 - P1-3 - Peedie Sea

Friday 3 April 2020 P4-7 Scapa beach (Friday afternoon - film for pupils)

Parent helpers will certainly be helpful!

### **Friday Forum**

Sorry I forgot all about the last date which was set, another date after the long weekend to be created. Date to be set.

### **Volunteers**

A number of volunteers have been PVG checked. Wendy and Kevin to set a date for induction for those willing to help in the school.

### **Learning Journals**

Work continues with staff adding monthly reports to the learning journals, parents who have not accessed the Learning Journal site or app will be receiving a letter in the post. There will be short end of year summary which will be sent out.

Parents are encouraged to check out the app. For those parents who did not sign up to the app, pupils should have been receiving a learning jotter home.

### **Next session - class groupings**

We expect classes from P1-4 to be changed in their configuration next year due to the number of teachers we are expected to have. We are going to do this based on pupil ability groupings to ensure that there is a mix of learning abilities in each class. Research suggests that mixed ability groups impact more favourably on all abilities of pupils and this is the principle which we will be

following. We will, like Glaitness, not be accepting any changes to the classes once these have been set by the staff. We must stick to this policy as if we change for one pupil, we must do it for all and the groupings of the classes are then compromised. Parents will not be consulted on the composition of the classes prior to the classes being sorted.

#### **4. Nursery Funding Request**

Tanya received a letter from Caroline Easton in the Nursery asking for funding for 6 cameras with SD cards and 4 iPads, costing a total of £3,520. We don't have the funds at present to cover this and also think it would be an unfair allocation of funds to give such a large amount to the Nursery. It was agreed that we would offer to purchase 2 iPads at a cost of £700, in line with the iPad allocation to the rest of the school. Tanya will draft a letter to Caroline with regards to this.

#### **5. School Disco's and Parent's Evening Stall**

Parents Evenings are on 25 & 26 March 2020. Wednesday 25th will be the late appointments (5-8pm) and Thursday 26th will be early appointments (3.30pm - 6pm) We will be running the raffle and home bakes stall as usual. Jo will be in touch to arrange the rota.

We will try a different night of the week for the school disco in May so that children who do activities on a Thursday will hopefully have a chance to attend. The date agreed was Tuesday 19 May. Tanya will check with Lee from Party Funtime Orkney to see if he is available on that date.

#### **6. Papdale Music Night Feedback**

The night went really well and there has been a lot of positive feedback with regards to the layout of the tables and the timing of the event being in February which is a quiet time of year. The social aspect of having tea, coffee and homebakes also went down well. A huge thank you to everyone who helped out on the evening and to those who donated baking and raffle prizes.

#### **7. Papdale Shopping Night.**

Katie and Lorna will not be able to organise a shopping night this year and it is a huge amount of work to organise. There has also been an increase in the number of people running shopping nights with an Orkney theme so it was agreed not to have one this year but to try something different. Suggestions included having a coffee morning with stalls and also a Christmas photo shoot, a Beetle Drive, Bingo Night or extra disco but this can be carried forward to a future meeting.

#### **8. School Crossing Patrol Locations**

This was carried forward from the meeting in November. Kevin put forward our suggestion for a crossing patrol at the end of Annfield Crescent. Due to recruitment issues this will not be considered at this time but has been noted.

#### **9. Speed Limit in KGS Car Park**

It has been noted that some drivers in the KGS car park are driving too fast. It's not known if there is a speed limit in the car park but Kevin will raise this with KGS. It's great that Papdale parents are allowed to use the car park and that parents are using it rather than parking around the school but we just need to try and ensure that everyone drives safely to help reduce the chance of an accident.

#### **10. AOCB**

There will be a few members of the current parent council standing down at the end of this school year so there was discussion around the need to directly approach people to see if

they would be interested in joining next year. If everyone could try to drum up some interest in joining it would be really helpful.

We will also produce and distribute a newsletter explaining a bit more about the parent council and how to join. We could also advertise the AGM date on this newsletter. It was also agreed that this year we will go back to advertising the AGM in the Orcadian.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 27 April 2020 at 6pm.**