

Meeting of Papdale Parent Council
Monday 8 June 2020 at 5.30pm
Via VScene

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Katie Croy, Shayron Mooney, Paula Craigie, Karen Allan, Ruth Drever, Tracy Linklater and Jos Tulloch.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting (10 February 2020) & Matters Arising

The minute was agreed as an accurate record. Approved by Tanya Blowfield, seconded by Joanne Tait.

Nursery Funding Request - Tanya confirmed that we have given the nursery £638.56 to purchase two new iPads with cases.

3. Head Teacher Update

Virtual School

Wendy updated that the virtual school handbook has been useful, staff feel clearer about what is required of them and there is more consistency across the school. Feedback from parents is largely positive with the new system of having core activities “starred” so you know what to focus on working well.

When asked if there had been any feedback from parents of children who usually find the formal school setting difficult, Wendy replied that there had been a mixed response but that some children seemed to be thriving in the virtual school, especially if they usually find the school building stressful. The way learning is delivered to these children may be reviewed to see if there are different ways of delivering learning in the future.

An e-mail had been received from a teacher on behalf of the parents in her class asking for more flexible deadlines on work. Due to working patterns, for some people it is more convenient to submit work at the weekends. Wendy agreed that deadlines needed to be, and should be, flexible across the school so she would issue a reminder of this.

Staffing

Papdale has 3 x FT vacancies at present, 2 of these are going to be filled by redeployments, the other will be available to teachers who have completed their 2 years' service and are entitled to a full time post.

With regards to the school management structure, there will be an advertisement going out for 1 x permanent Principal Teacher of Support for Learning.

Helga Flett returns in August from a career break.

Michelle Kennedy is on maternity leave, her maternity cover has not been confirmed yet. The majority of teachers will be staying in the same classes next year as they are familiar with the curriculum for those year groups and have built up resources. This allows

teachers to be able to focus more on the children as they are already confident about the curriculum.

Mr Brown will be moving to P6 and Miss Copland will be moving to P2.

Restructuring of Classes

Prior to Covid-19 it had already been decided to restructure classes within the school. This will still go ahead although if the current social distancing remains in place, full classes will not be able to attend school at the same time. The only year groups not being restructured are the current P5 and P6 groups. Staff are working to decide the other classes based on attainment levels and social groups. It has been proven that the most efficient classes are the ones that contain a mixture of attainment levels. Letters will go out to parents as soon as possible letting them know what classes their children will be in. No changes will be allowed to these classes.

** 6pm Lorna joined the meeting **

Return to School in August 2020

If the current social distancing requirements of 2 meters are still in place in August, the maximum class size possible will be 8 pupils per room. We don't yet know what this will look like at Papdale or how many days pupils will be able to return for but all of the different options are being considered at present to try and find the best option possible for such a large school.

Consideration will need to be given to family groups so that all siblings from a family will attend school on the same day(s).

Groups will need to be compiled of pupils that will work well together. The school is waiting for further guidance on return to school.

As the new P1's will be using the area that is currently the Nursery, the Nursery will be temporarily moved to the dining hall. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms and, until such time as the dinner hall can be used again and social distancing is relaxed, will be limited to packed lunches only.

Class rooms will need to be prepared for August prior to the school closing for the Summer holidays in July. Wendy doesn't want any staff working within the holidays as they need their break. The issue with getting staff in to prepare the school is that the Hub for the East Mainland is currently based at Papdale and the school needs to be deep-cleaned before staff can return. As a result of this the Hub will have to be moved to a new location to allow for the deep-cleaning of Papdale. Plans are underway for this and letters will be going out to parents of children attending the Hub shortly.

Transition

An e-mail was received from a parent concerned about transition from P7 to KGS and wondering if there would be anything happening before the Summer holidays. They asked if any plans could be run past parents concerned before being made public? Wendy agreed that this was an important concern and would be similar for parents of children due to start P1. One of the work streams being focused on at present is transitioning. James Wylie is not keen for any visits to take place before Summer, this is more likely to take place in the first weeks back after Summer but there may be online videos available. Wendy would look into whether there were any parents on the transitioning workgroup and if not she would be happy for parents to put names forward to join the group. Tanya will provide this feedback.

4. AOCB

AGM

Jo believes that we are legally obliged to hold our AGM prior to the end of September, even if this has to be virtually. There is an online course on virtual meetings and AGM's being delivered by Connect on Tuesday 16 June at 3pm. Nicola will e-mail the link out with the draft minutes of tonight's meeting if anyone would like to sign up to join this group. Connect training tends to be informative and useful.

It was noted that we have quite a few members planning to stand down at the AGM in September so we will need to promote the PC and see if we can encourage more members to join.

Wendy may be in touch with a future meeting date as and when required to get feedback on plans as they are finalised.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

Date of next meeting: TBC