

Notes of a Meeting of Papdale Parent Council

Monday 23 November at 7pm

Virtual Meeting

Present: Katie Croy, Joanne Tait, Olivia MacPherson, Ashleigh Gillespie, Dawn Stanger, Dawn Williams, Inez Thomson, Kevin Balfour, Lesley Bews, Lisa Gibson, Elaine Bain, Rachal Thomson

Apologies – Marraine Clark, Lorna Robertson,

1. Notes of the 05th October 2020 – Approved. Proposed: Joanne Tait Seconded – Dawn Stanger
2. Matters arising
 - Photos to school? – get your selfie to Kevin ASAP as he is still waiting for some
3. Head teacher report – Wendy gave the following report

Covid

We continue to thank you all for your ongoing patience, we see that nearly everyone now wears a mask in the playground, we continue to be concerned about the amount of people gathering at night in the playground. Thank you for parking up at KGS, our car park is no longer for parental access unless stopping to drop something at the office. Please be aware that the space behind the kitchen is not for parental car access to the nursery, you must park elsewhere.

Children continue to have their own areas of the playground and remain in their bubbles, we are being extra cautious due to our sheer size, pupils have been playing in zones, we are looking at how we can move children more often.

Our lunch time continue to be staggered, some pupils still have dinner in their classroom but everyone is now accessing hot meals.

Fundraising

Thank you to the parent council for their efforts to raise money at Halloween. The children loved the fun of the dressing up and the pumpkin colour competition was a great success and well supported.

Children in Need was a bit different this year but the P7s had lots of fun ideas, and the quiz assembly and the different fun sheets that the children made for the classes was well received. Thanks to Mrs Dufort and Mr Brown for joining with me and taking part in the staff dooking. We were overwhelmed to receive £3650 for the efforts of the children.

Pupils

We have been undertaking attainment dives in all the classes. There we are looking at predicted targets for summer. We must report our expected targets to the council for P1 P4 and P7. So far P1 is likely to exceed their targets in all areas, P4 has a dip in reading and writing attainment and P7 is also on track to achieve their targets.

We note that the children in P2 and P3 have been most significantly affected by the lost learning during lockdown and to this end we have a teacher supplied by additional money from the government working 2 days a week in P2 and P3.

School Improvement

Our targets this year are focuses on Health and wellbeing of all, raising attainment in all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on reading, and ensuring that our P1 classrooms is structured to raise attainment within a play environment. We are making progress in all areas, staff are working with children using the Jigsaw programme to support the children's health and well being. The Sounds Write programme is looking at reading and spelling, staff have been taking a closer look at our reading programme across the school and we continue to ensure that writing is part of the everyday plan. We have also ensured that mental maths is a part of each day. Our P1 classes have worked hard to develop their area and now use a carousel approach to learning in the morning, and have learning through play opportunities in the afternoon.

P1 Photos

Ken Amer took photos of the P1 children for the paper the other week.

Staff training

6 members of staff have been undertaking Sounds Write training this is supporting teacher to teach children how to read and spell. The approach is based from the fact that reading and writing are invented and therefore need to be taught, whilst children learn to speak naturally. Therefore we work from where the children are, speech and the sounds of language. We expect that this development will be rolled out over the course of the next 2 -3 years across the whole school, but at the moment we are focusing on P1, P2 and P3.

The money to pay for this course has been taken from PEF as this course is targeted to ensure that children in the lowest 20% who often struggle to read are targeted.

Parent Council Money

Due to the fact that we find ourselves in school having gone over budget, we would like to ask the parent council if the funding for accelerated reading can be used to purchase the new phonic reading scheme. These books are fully decodable for the children as they learn the sounds and work hand in glove with the Sounds Write programme.

Following discussion with the Senior Leadership team whilst the programme of Accelerated reading would be good to have we felt that it was more important to ensure that we get the children off to a good start with the mechanics of reading in the first place.

Staffing

We have lost Ms Gina McMahon as Class teacher as she takes up more work with the NHS. We thank her for the work which she has done, Mrs Anna Learmonth has taken the rest of this academic session as a career break and we look forward to her return in Aug. Mrs McNeish is currently off work but Mrs Rona Humphries is covering the class lending a level of continuity to the class. Mrs Becky Ewing has announced that she is expecting a baby in May, we give her our congratulations. We celebrate Mrs Irene Drever's retirement later this week.

We short leet for 1ft post (P2/3s) , 0.4 fte (P1) post and 0.5fte P5 next week.

We welcome Claire Miller to the school office she will join us properly when she has received her PVG until then she will work from home, coming into school to collect the work that she needs.

Mrs Joyce Gray has handed in her notice and will leave us in Jan, we wish her all the best and we are sorry to see that she is leaving. Her position will be filled and applications are welcome.

We hope that we will be able to have 2 Pupils Support Worker post come live before the end of the year, we await confirmation of this post by the Directorate team. This post will work in partnership with SEAL and CLD to support children and families who find attending school difficult.

Christmas

P3 are doing a stop start animation of the nativity this year which will ensure we still have an online performance .

The music department are doing something that the school will sign a song too which is lovely.

We will continue to put up the Christmas tree as normal and we will accept Christmas Card into school, we suggest that children pop the cards into the post box in the class this will then have to sit for 72 hours before the post is handed out.

Christmas parties will occur in classes if the staff want to do hold parties.

The Christmas lunch will still be served but it will not have all the trimmings in order to ensure that we can feed everyone. No crackers are being given out either due to a waste of plastic within the cracker.

We will have Susan Kirkbride from the Peedie Kirk, Fraser McNaughton from the Cathedral and Tim Proudlove from the Baptist church to speak over advent at our school assemblies, these assemblies with the except of the assembly on the last day of term will take a reflective manner so that all children can attend and no one need feel excluded.

4. Engagement with parents/Publicising meetings – Parents had enquired about how parent council meetings were minuted and

publicised as some parents didn't seem to know where to find information. Parent council minutes and other items are posted on Papdale Primary School webpage but perhaps folk are not going to websites so commonly and so publicising through facebook might be more effective. Current constitution states that agendas should be published 14 days in advance of meetings and that parents can attend. The following actions were agreed:

- a. Agenda will be emailed out 14 days in advance of next meeting
- b. Any parent wishing to attend will be asked to notify the committee in advance
- c. Agenda items will be accepted up until one week prior to meeting and to be emailed to parent council using parent council email
- d. When everyone has got their pictures in to Kevin we will arrange to do a bit of promotion of PC on facebook
- e. Constitution to be reviewed – Joanne Tait and Olivia Macpherson will lead this work – they will contact other PCs and also CONNECT who are paid to support us. They will then bring proposed revisions to the next meeting. Anyone with comments regarding the constitution to let Jo or Olivia know.
- f. Website link to page is here:
<http://www.orkney.co/papdale/meet-papdale-school-parent-council-2015-16>

5. Fundraising –

- a. Halloween – final total to be confirmed but estimated to be in the region of £360
- b. Body Shop - £75.00 raised
- c. Christmas – Various different suggestions were discussed but it was acknowledged that it is already an expensive time for parents and so the following were agreed to take forward:
 - i.) Christmas Movie Anagram sheet - Lorna designing ; Discussion regarding how best to get it out to folks. IT was suggested it could be emailed out and then folks pay £1 when returned. Alternatively it could be handed out in class.
 - ii. movie hamper – Elaine Bain co-ordinating

- iii. Christmas jumper day – same day as Christmas dinners;
 - d. Just giving/paypal – Olivia had sent round video about how to register Seems like a simple and good method to obtain funds. Need to double check we can just register for friends and family and that we will not end up with fees to pay. Olivia and Jo will do more investigating but meeting agreed in principle it was a good idea.
- 6. Christmas – No crackers are being provided by Education department this year so Parent Council will not require to fund crackers this year either
- 7. Furniture P7s – Some parents had approached members of the parent council questioning the appropriateness of the desks and chairs in P7 classroom. Kevin advise there was a national specification for furniture for each year group and that in P7 adult sized desks and chair were provided

AOB –

- a. New members packs – Kevin advised he has a number sitting in his office. He is happy to get them out to new PC members – list to be supplied. Post meeting note: Kevin signposted PC to electronic version of this document. PC to contact him if they would prefer paper copies
- b. Lesley advised that her employer EMEC were offering sponsorship in the new year. Detail to be further developed but thought that STEM related through Papdale Voices might be an option.
- c. Adventure playground – Concern had been expressed to parent council by parents that this area was now restricted only to nursery children. Wendy acknowledged that it was challenging. When originally funded it was for whole school. Papdale have investigated if it could be moved but that was cost prohibitive. Nursery requires to be free flow between indoor and outdoor space and there is a rule regarding the amount of outdoor space per nursery child so there is no immediate solution to this issue.

- d. Dinner hall – Enquiry about dinner hall arrangements. There are a maximum of 3 classes in the dinner hall at any one time. An auxiliary takes each class down to dinner hall and remains to supervise the sitting
- e. Cycle proficiency – Kevin confirmed that P6 training will be done in Term 4 by Papdale ; OIC education will take a lead on ensuring that P7s also get to do their's prior to year end
- f. Road safety reminder – Noted that a number of children seem to be setting off to cycle home after school without lights or helmets. Kevin and Wendy agreed that school will issue a reminder regarding this

DONM:

01 February 2021
26 April 2021
14 June 2021

If parents would like to add anything to agenda please let one of the Parent council members know or email: papdalepc@gmail.com