

## Hawthornden Parent Council Meeting Minutes – 17/3/21

### **HT Update**

Return to school has gone well and all of the staff are enjoying having the school full of children again.

Parent consultations will be happening next week. These have been put back from February and will take the form of 10 minute phone calls. Jackie noted that this had had good uptake last year. *Question - what format will these take? Brief chat about lockdown engagement, current progress and next steps.*

Breakfast club was put on hold but plans are in place to reinstate it after the Easter holidays.

Miss Stevenson has taken the place of Ryan Thomson in P2 when he left to take up a new post. This has been a relatively smooth transition and there are talks ongoing about how parent consultations will be structured for this class given the recent changeover.

Recent staff training includes Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, ASD training and there will soon be a training session on inclusion. *Question - will this be shared with parents - possibility for a zoom session to share learning with parents*

Teaching posts have been advertised across Midlothian - currently 10 but it is expected that more will be appointed. This is to help schools with staffing issues due to Covid. Both this year and last year's NQTs will be able to apply for posts which is really positive.

### **Playground**

Laura Birrell advised that the school would like to focus on developing the block 2 playground area (that is the area by P3/4 exit doors). Miss Swan has sourced a mud kitchen which will be installed in the area and plans are underway for more tyres and planks.

Miss Swan has also seen ideas for a wooden pirate ship and has run the idea by Health and Safety. The cost is quite high, around £1250 and there was some discussion about perhaps getting someone local who might be able to do the work at a lower rate. *action - posts to be made on Facebook PC page and local resident's forum to request contacts. Vicki Wright suggested her husband may be able to help and agreed to ask.*

The picnic benches could do with some cheering up and it was thought that maybe these could be painted. There was some consideration about durability and ongoing maintenance and Kim S suggested yacht varnish. *action - Kim to donate some emulsion and a small tin of varnish to see if this would work on the wood.*

Miss Sun will be with us for another year and the decision has been made to make a Chinese inspired garden in the front of the school which can be used with the children during Mandarin lessons. The idea will be to do some planting of flowers and herbs and perhaps have a water feature if one can be sourced. *action - contact Harbro and Pentland Plants locally and B&Q further afield to see if they can donate anything.*

### **Books**

Wendy Townsend has been sorting through the school reading books, taking out those which are too badly damaged or too out of date to be appropriate and relevant. She noted there is now a lack of books for P4-

5 in particular and asked for funding of £800-1000 to buy some new books which will be more engaging for the children.

It was unanimously agreed that Wendy could use the currently banked Parent Council funds to update the school's books and we would fundraise to replace these/help with playground upgrades.

### **Fundraising**

Duck Race - we are going to aim to hold a virtual duck race to fundraise for playground improvements/replace funds spent on books. This will take place after the Easter break. Lea Sime will take a lead in organising it. More details to follow.

### **Next meetings**

The next meetings of the parent council will be held on Wednesdays at 6.30pm on 12/05/2021 and 09/06/2021. The link below will be used for both meetings.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78256084621?pwd=c1hFcjNUQjVsSGVDTTIraEFNd2pJZz09>

Meeting ID: 782 5608 4621

Passcode: V99Kif