

Parent Council Meeting 9th February 2022 Virtual Meeting

Present: Aileen (Chair), Louise (Minutes), Vicki (incoming Treasurer), Sarah (outgoing Treasurer), Jackie (school), Ruth (School), Marilyn, Lea, Angela

Apologies: Johanna

Headteacher's Report

School improvement plan

Devices – Staff have been engaging with training equip staff with knowledge to use the new Chromebooks. Jackie expects delivery of the devices around 28th February, after which, they will be handed out to pupils with Miss Lindsay's support. 148 consent forms have been returned so far, with about the same number still to be returned. School are targeting communication to those individual families who have not yet returned their forms. Devices will not be sent home straight away – a contract needs to be drawn up with the children for the responsible use of the devices and it will be trialled with one class initially, likely one of the P7 classes.

Nurture – Kim McIntyre continues to be Hawthornden's nurture lead. She has has been on training and is implementing the identified next steps.

Attainment gap – There have been pupil progress meetings taking place both to discuss those who need pushed on and those who need more support. There are also a couple of new Learning Assistants starting soon.

Moderation activities as whole staff – ensuring all comfortable and confident at agreeing upon a standard at each level. Looking at reading after February holidays then numeracy after.

COVID

There has been a considerable increase in COVID rates, particularly in the upper school. School have been putting in measures designed to keep the year group a little more segregated from the rest of the school. It appears that we are now over the main peak and most children are starting to return to school.

Staffing

Jenny Riches is taking career break and will be replaced by Rachel Harvey who comes to us from Burnbrae. Rachel is currently working in P4 as overtime until her contract at Burnbrae ends when she will be with us 3.5 days per week.

MUGA

In the past, there have been issues with leaving the MUGA open for public use outwith school times including broken glass and dog fouling and an increase in vandalism across the rest of the school grounds. The MUGA has been opened and closed to the public on a couple of occasions and is currently closed. Midlothian Council currently agree with Jackie's assessment and are allowing the MUGA to remain closed, though it was acknowledged that local children would probably benefit from and enjoy using it outwith school hours. Jackie asked that the Parent Council share this on their platforms to gather parents' views. **ACTION** – Louise to post on Parent Council platforms.

Lasswade High School Parent Council

The Parent Council at Lasswade High School are keen to encourage parents of all Primary 7s in the catchment to consider joining the parent council meetings and fundraising efforts.

Red Nose Day

School are keen to observe this event which takes place this year on 18th March. The plan is currently to mark it with a dress down day and P7s will be selling red notes that week. Mr Jones' class will be selling red noses while Miss Bethke's class will work on Sport Relief.

Questions for School

Covid/ventilation – parents have noted that the doors, particularly in the infant block are often left open for ventilation and it was queried whether there a safer way to provide ventilation as leaving the doors open could be problematic in terms of children getting out or unknown persons accessing the school. It was acknowledged that ventilation is difficult in an older building and that the windows can sometimes present their own risks. The doors are often for freeflow in the infant school and Ruth noted the benefits – such as children making more use of the outside area more. It was also noted that there are generally two adults in the younger classes. Ruth felt that there is a very tiny risk of anyone wanting to get in and feels the benefits outweigh the risks. Those present appreciated the explanations given however felt it was appropriate to acknowledge the risk.

Opportunities to volunteer – it was noted that some parents have missed being in school generally and seeing work their children have completed. The senior leadership team said there are opportunities to volunteer in school and to get in touch if anyone was interested. It was also noted that it might be possible to display some work outdoors in better weather.

Treasury

Current total is around £2500 after banking over £400 from coin wars and £1500 from the Christmas raffle (for which, P5B were the winning class).

A second signatory is needed from the current Parent Council. Angela Fletcher agreed to take on the responsibility and she and Vicki will work together to get her on to the bank account.

Duck race

The duck race will be held on 8th April (last day before the Easter break). The Parent Council will arrange for kits to be delivered to teachers during week beginning 21st March to give 2 weeks to sell the ducks in advance.

Aileen agreed to make a start on getting prizes for the individual prizes and hampers.

P7 fundraising

Previously talked about camp fundraising but most now been paid in full and probably would not be helpful at this stage.

P7 hoodies

Teachers have made a start on arranging these and they have historically been delivered around Easter.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 4th May, 6.30pm