

Parent Council Meeting on Thursday 21st January 2021, on Teams

Present:

Susan Cochrane, Angela Broom, Bryony Grisewood, Lilah Canevaro, Carys Macdonald, Naomi Guilfoyle, Fiona Schaefer, Gillian Turner, Rachel King, Jennifer McGowan, Lorna Brady, Amine & Madona Zungi, Nicky Macdonald, Kate Wimpres, Sam Rutherford, Donna McGuire, Gillian Powers, Emma Bartlett

- **Welcome to all**

Rachel (joint chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting

- **Purpose of meeting.**

Reflect on home schooling and help with the link to the school community.

- **Previous PC mins/outstanding actions**

Please note the last meeting was on 24th November 2020, before lockdown was announced, so some actions will not have been completed because of this.

Actions:

How do we outline financial support to parents – wording was put in an email and a booklet was completed.

Second hand clothing – can't do this in the playground at the moment

Push easy fundraising – was put in the newsletter.

Road closure of Meadowfield drive – Rachel and Sam were going to form a sub group, but this has been shelved due to current lockdown. Sam and Rachel will pick up when and if necessary.

Regular updates from Susan - really appreciated.

Whatsapp bingo game – Carys to check licence. Cays will update in Treasures report tonight.

Monthly raffle – carried over to next meeting

School Facebook page- Sam had volunteered, this is being followed up.

- **Treasurer's update**

Since last meeting: main change parent pay fundraising: £1444 donated, so appreciated by everyone that at this very hard time that the school community donated such a considerable amount.

Total Assets: £8,621.38

Less Liabilities + sinking fund: (2,850) *

Available funds: £5,771.38

Less monies bookmarked for iPads: £3,000

Available funds less iPad contribution: £2,771.38

*there are certain things the parent council help the school pay for every year, for example a licence fee for equipment used for the school library.

Carys has had no luck with the council trying to find out about licence and whether we can hold raffles online, so going to go ahead and get a lottery licence £40.

Carys going to phone the person we usual do the cash raffle with to double check what they think (Action Carys)

Carys feels we should be able/OK to go ahead with the fundraising raffles.

Rachel agreed sensible just to go ahead.

- **Fundraising ideas**

We have said this year our focus as PC was to support the school's digital strategy.

It would be good to focus not only on IT and COVID but how IT can support the children of Parsons Green and their learning in the future.

The school building will be 60 this year:

A commemorative mug? A competition for the children to design it? **Action Susan and Jennifer.**

Bury the time capsule in March.

- **Parent feedback/discussion on current home schooling**

PC coffee morning last week was an open discussion. Susan gave feedback on the meeting:

Overview:

Last lockdown feedback – parents wanted worksheets, so this is what the school had concentrated on this time.

Last lockdown 19 schools were working out of Holyrood High in a hub. Very hard to support children. This time using our own school and staff, which is much better for those keyworker children and other children in the school community who need support.

Susan said there was a feeling of disappointment from the school community at what the school had offered in this lockdown.

Education Scotland issued their guidance the weekend before online learning started and the school had already set up their plans.

In reaction to this:

At a staff meeting Susan has spoken to the teachers about what they can manage, bearing in mind their current situations.

Staff have been upskilling with webinars on Teams.

Last week was spent finding lots of passwords for pupils that had been lost.

This week, live check-ins.

We know some children are struggling with sense of isolation, we want to try and keep the community feel but also support who we are as humans too, to keep those connections.

There was a degree of anxiety over the weekend from some teachers about how the check-ins were going to go.

Refine learning grids, include recording to support the learning (either their own or links)

Now:

Feedback about the check-ins has been very positive:

Parents: 'Game changer, made a huge difference.'

Staff: it is fabulous to see the children, initially nervous, enjoying seeing and responding to work, feeling tech has worked so far, enjoying talking to the children about learning.

Things to improve: making the check-ins/engagement sessions really worthwhile.

Staff feeling they are getting to grips with it, next steps (feels like it is a very different way of teaching) and they are going to build on those skills before they change anything major.

- **Questions/Feedback from people at tonight's meeting:**

One to one contact –if you get a blocked number it might be a teacher calling you or PG number Susan calling. Phone calls are allowed and will be provided, one to one teams meetings; Susan is waiting for guidance, so for now they will not happen.

For some children with very specific needs there might be one to one support with learning given.

Teams workshops for parents - Susan can ask the council. **Action Susan**

Jenifer has been sent a PowerPoint on how to use teams, how to complete tasks, how to send them in, where they fit. They could go on the school website? **Action Jennifer**

Not allowed to record the daily check-ins – GDPR, we have been told it would be breaking the law if we did.

Recordings from the teachers are helpful

Teachers sometimes difficult to hear – headphones might help.

Is there an expectation that the pupils have to join the check-in every day? Absolutely not, you have to do what works for you. Always prioritise your families' wellbeing first. Do not feel you have to check in.

Clarify point on format of the survey yes/no response on survey is hard to respond to. **Action Susan**

Number of platforms we have to check daily quite hard: as a staff body we have talked about this, some were there before lockdown, like sumdog for example. There is not one thing that is going to suit everybody. Susan noted some parents feel other schools are doing it better, Susan spoke to cluster colleagues, and feels that the school challenges are similar in other schools.

Learning journals really successful in the nursery, they did talk about having them throughout the school? It doesn't work so well when parents are having to upload things to it. What can we learn from this time, what are we going to keep (what has been really useful).

We consciously thought younger children would not manage Teams independently, we thought learning journals are at least a little more user friendly for the children.

When they go to high school they will use Teams. The school made a conscious decision in August to give lessons on Teams to P5-7. Partly driven by class bubbles and not being able to share devices across the bubbles during a school week, the school were aware they were never going to get through all the class bubbles and the training needed in that time frame.

It would be good to have just one or two emails from school a week, and to know what they are for. Not loads of emails throughout the week.

Jennifer has been having those conversations with staff, teachers are panicking, especially as some parents saying not enough and some saying it's too much, so they are trying to set a standard for teachers to aim for. Should be one message with one sheet. Some things

have to come extra like team's passwords that weren't working. Parents shouldn't be having to check what else there is every day.

Please could we have learning priorities for the week, the top 3/5 things teachers would love completed each week.

Sometimes parents will send emails at 9pm, as this is the only time they have at the moment, but would not expect teachers to respond, until working hours.

We know teachers might not be IT experts, that is OK, that was not in your professional remit.

Susan reiterated that feedback from parents is so important, please please give your feedback. With open communication between, school community and the staff, we can make this situation work.

Sam (joint Chair) wanted to stress that Susan is really willing to hear feedback, this can shape things. Thank you Susan for being so open. Such a healthy relationship with the school.

Tuesday there will be another coffee morning for parents on teams to support everyone.

- **Planning for the future**

The role of Treasure and Chair: we will need new volunteers for these posts as Carys and Sam will be leaving this year as their children are leaving.

A separate Teams meeting will be held for P7 parents. **Action Susan, Sam and Rachel**

Thank you

Huge thanks to staff for all they are doing, it is so appreciated by the school community.

Susan thanked the school community and said it was an absolute privilege to work with the wonderful parents of Parsons Green at this tricky time.

Susan ended on a slide, please see attached.

Next PC meeting: Tuesday 16th March

Following PC meeting dates:

May 19th

June AGM - 16th

