

Parsons Green Primary School

Dream, Believe, Achieve!

Parent Council HT Report 13th Oct 2021



**We Are:
Ready
Respectful
Safe**



HT Report



- **Covid Updates** – this term has been very challenging in school with covid cases and absences, however, we are continuing to do our best to maintain a much consistency as possible. We are still adhering to the Covid Guidance for Schools from the Scottish Government (which means no large gathering as assemblies, parents helpers/visitors in school etc). Despite the challenges there have been lots of positives:
- Belonging project at the start of term, Building Resilience –Challenge Your Mindset
- P5a have started swimming lessons at the Commonwealth Pool for a block of 10weeks, the other P5 will have a block later in the year.
- P5 have also been to an archaeology day with the Holyrood Rangers. This is an important local link where they learn about the life of Iron Age settlers around the Holyrood Park area.
- P5-7 have been attending tennis coaching in partnership with Abercorn Tennis Club which have been very positively received. The school has absorbed the coaching cost in this instance but in future there may be a small charge (e.g. £2 for the full 6 weeks).
- P3 and P4/3 are about to have a block of music lessons from a NYCoS (National Youth Choir of Scotland) tutor. This will be a mix of online and in-person delivery. All classes from P1 to P5 will have some music input during the year from the Youth Music Initiative.
- We are also working in partnership with The Green Team to deliver some small nurture groups in P3 and P4 at present (we're aiming to ensure all the P3/4 children have some forest school experiences during the year along with the P5 children who missed their forest schools experience due to lockdown in March20)
- We are accessing a school counsellor from PHS for some individuals and groups with a focus around transition to high school.
- The ASL (Additional Support for Learning) Service are working with individuals and groups, mainly across P2, 3 and 4 at present.
- We have strong links with the speech and language therapy service who deliver direct work with some of our children and training for staff.
- Gold and Gray are mentoring some care-experienced young people. P6 are planning a trip to Dynamic Earth.
- People Know How are about to do some work around transition for some P7 pupils. Letter due this week about Benmore Camp for P7 in March 2022.
- P7 playleaders training is about to be completed this week and will involve practising skills with P2 and P1
- Scotdec have been working with staff around anti-racist work Active Schools Clubs -number of children registered: 104- places, 101 taken up.
- Literacy Difficulties and Dyslexia workshop for parents and carers run by Support for Learning teacher, 11 overall participants.

HT Report

Agreed Fundraising Priorities with the PC to work towards:

- Active Schools, clubs have started: 104 places available, 101 taken up across P1 to P7 (letter ready to go to families explaining the need for support)
- Digital Strategy (agreed fundraising priority with the PC)
- Outdoor learning/playground /Gardening Group (agreed fundraising priority with the PC)
- Travel Plan Review - the survey for parents and carers and staff closed this week and the Road Safety Team will be reviewing the comments. The scope of the review takes in the covid safety measures which involve the planters/signs on Paisley Drive and temporary road closures at school drop-off/pick-up times, the school crossing guides (lollipop guides), the zig-zag line areas, double yellow lines and how to support active travel to/from school to reduce the impact of cars/traffic round the school and improve health and wellbeing.
They will meet with the Parent Council and gather pupil views as part of the process.
- Results of Timing of the School Day Survey –see next slide

1. The Timing of the School Day Consultation involves all stakeholders at Parsons Green: parents/carers, pupils and staff

- It arose from changes made temporarily during the coronavirus pandemic in August 2020 when a staggered start and finish was introduced as a safety measure.
- At August 2021 the start of the day continued from 8.45am, with the end brought forward 10mins to compensate for the earlier start, to 3.10pm for P3-7 instead of staggered finishing times; a change from the original 8.55am – 3.20pm.
- A desire to establish views about maintaining the covid-related change or reverting back to the original timing have been the main focus for the consultation along with establishing what kind of start is most valued by all stakeholders.



It is more relaxed and in my opinion just better. You don't have to wait, especially in winter when it's cold. I like the soft start and it's not so much pressure. I just like how it is with PSA's meeting us at the gate. (pupils)

The bells keep you on time. I like lining up and chatting to my friends. I made the choice of no bells because I just prefer it this way but I like the old school timings better because it gives me more time to get to school. (pupils)

I'm confused about when they are meant to start (parent)

the time itself doesn't matter so much but punctuality of the greeting/hand sanitising member of staff is really important. (parent)

Needs to be a prompt start, whichever timing is chosen (parents)

Safer, less stressful. Valuable start to the day, can meet and greet properly, engage with pupils, revisit prior learning. Can target key literacy skills through morning challenges. Settled more quickly and valuable time not lost waiting for lines/cloakroom queues (staff)

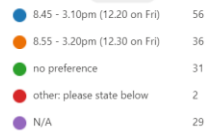
The soft start has been invaluable; no bells, no queues, no fuss, no stress, and it's amazing to hear that feedback from teachers that the children arrive ready to start to learn. (parent)

I love the way it is now (parent)

2. Results: parents/carers, staff, pupils

I would prefer the following option for my P3-7 child (based on a 15min break/ 45min lunch):

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)



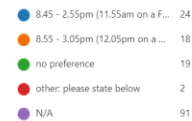
Parents/Carers:



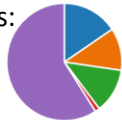
154 responses from parents/carers:
Majority want 8.45am start/ 3.10pm finish (2.55pm for P1-2)
2 people wanted an 8.30am start
20% have no preference

I would prefer the following option for my P1-2 child (based on 15min break/20min on Fri and 1hr lunch):

[More Details](#)



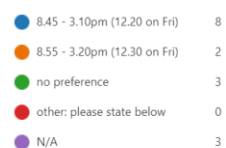
Parents/Carers:



16 responses from staff: majority want 8.45am start/3.10pm finish
3 have no preference

I would prefer the following option for P3-7 (based on a 15min break/ 45min lunch):

[More Details](#)



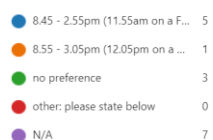
Staff:



197 pupils: majority want 8.45am/3.10pm
71% new time
29% old time

I would prefer the following option for P1-2 (based on 15min break/20min on Fri and 1hr lunch):

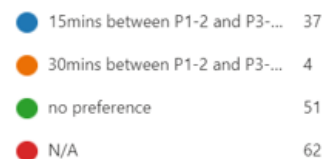
[More Details](#)



Staff:



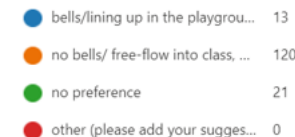
I prefer the following pick-up time arrangements: (if applicable)



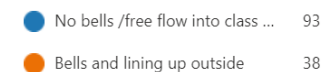
3. Further Views: Pro's and Con's

4. Start of the day routine

154 responses: Please rate the current free-flow/soft-start morning routine (P1-7) for you and your family:



78% for free-flow/no bells (parents/carers)



76% for free-flow/no bells (pupils)



94% staff

5. Pick up arrangements

6. Next steps:

- discuss findings with stakeholders
- ensure a prompt start to the day with the chosen timing clearly communicated
- maintain positives of morning routine

Outdoor Grounds update

Last week Ms Murray-Cavanagh took part in the Volunteer Assembly at Edinburgh Tool Library where she pitched her proposal asking for help from the Tool Library volunteers to improve our playground. She was successful in her bid and we will now work alongside the Tool Library to spruce up our outdoor spaces. The bid comes with a small amount of Lottery funding.

We aim to replace/fix our existing planters, picnic tables and benches and build some more, expanding and boosting our play and outdoor learning facilities. We also hope to create a Wee Free Library on our grounds. We aim to include interested learners and parents in the project which will be developed alongside our Wildlife Garden this year. Watch this space for updates. For more information about the Edinburgh Tool Library visit their website here:

Edinburgh Tool Library



Digital Strategy: working on the Digital Schools Award

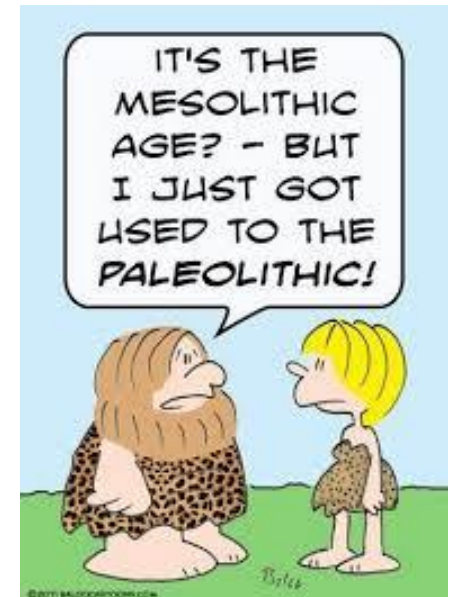
Priority 1	10 iPads	£3100 - ordered (PC)	THANK YOU! 😊 In use.... 
Priority 2	Nursery whiteboard	£2900	
Priority 3	Programmable toys	£2000	
Priority 4	10 iPads	£3100	
Priority 5	10 iPads	£3100	
		TOTAL: £14,200 (approx.)	

We now urgently need 4x IWB –Interactive White Boards to support learning in class at a cost of £3000 each = £12,000. This is overtaking other Digital Priorities at present. The commitment to supporting this is really appreciated but will require fundraising!

The Empowered Edinburgh Project is aiming to have 1:1 ipad devices for every P6 to S6 pupil in the city to support learning.

Please see a letter to all parents/carers this week from the Interim Director of Education and Children's Services explaining the project.

This is about equity and ensuring that every child has access to the skills that they need for the 21st century.





PARSONS GREEN RATIONALE January 21

Prioritise

All

Relationships!

Safety measures

Outdoor Learning

Nurture

Sustainability

Grow & (Gaining

Recover (Resilience)

Educating everyone

Equity & Equality

Never Give Up! **Dream, Believe, Achieve!**

*How are we reviewing
our curriculum?*

*How are we ensuring it
is reflective of our
community and
inclusive for all?*

OUR VALUES....

RESPECT

FAIRNESS

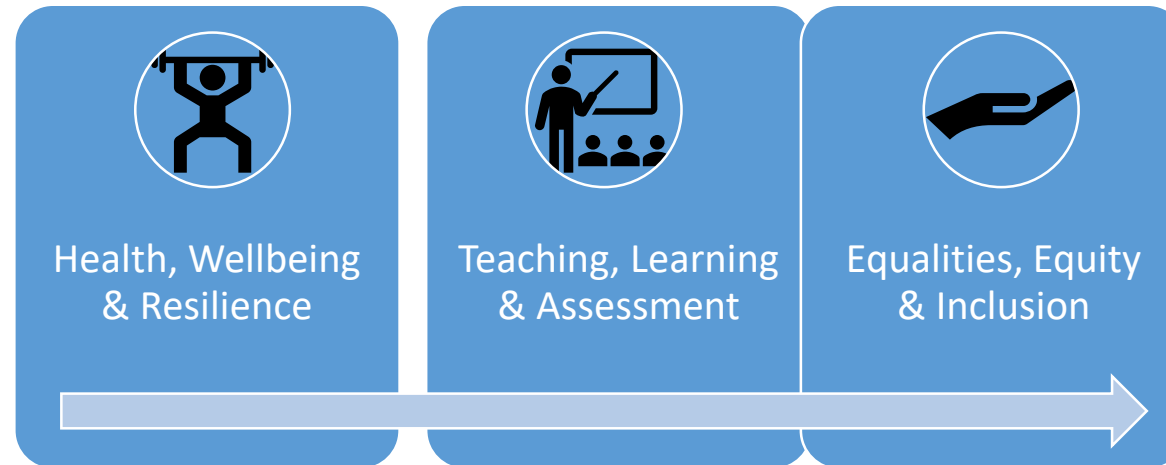
HONESTY

KINDNESS

RESPONSIBILITY

(for self and
the environment)

Key Aspects of Renewal Planning



We also have a continuing focus on:

- **'poverty-related attainment gap'**
- **Inclusion**
- **Recognising and realising children's rights (working towards RRSA Gold Level)**
- **Anti-racism/ reviewing our curriculum**
- **Zones of Regulation**
- **Writing**