

Parent Council Meeting (held online)

Wednesday 11th November 2020

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Fiona Esson, Jan and David Watt, Laura Ferguson, Niall and Lauren Ferguson, Jen Dunbar, Joanne Reid, Catriona Penman, Angela Pond (Head Teacher), Jane Veitch (P1,2 Teacher)

Apologies: Gemma Wood, Sacha Shepherd

2. Approval of minutes – Meeting 1st October 2020 – no comments and so approved

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Abbreviated Improvement Plan to be uploaded to website – Mrs Pond advises that a final few tweaks are being made to the plan.

Disconnect across year groups – P1/2 and P5/6/7 have been holding meetings online introducing themselves and also reading stories. The older class will also be setting out a trail in the woods for the younger class to follow.

4. Treasurer's Update

Only change is profit from Halloween Fundraiser of £312.85 bringing the account balance to £1357.99.

5. Headteacher's Report – see attached, plus additional points as follows:

PE: The hall is being prepared for use and will only be used by one class per day to allow for cleaning, children still not changing into PE kit.

School guidelines: Mrs Pond recommended Education Scotland website for parents (see link below)

Seesaw: Catriona Penman suggested use of Class Dojo as alternative to Seesaw. Unfortunately, use of this app has already been denied by the Authority. Google classroom also discussed.

P7 transition: Jan Watt suggested it would be helpful if children were familiar with Google Classroom as this is used in Academy (also advised easy for parents to use) and also some tasks to be completed at home would help prepare the children for the homework they will receive.

6. Action Points

Communication plan in the event the school has to close: Mrs Pond advises this would be the same as March, with communication via Groupcall (received as an email by parents) and an initial 3-week work pack.

Garden – shed / shelter: We previously discussed the need for storage and a shelter, but the school have more storage with the After School Club equipment being removed and so only need a smaller store and a simple standalone shelter. The store has been included in the grant application to TESCO and so we discussed the shelter. Mrs Pond to take discussion forward with Niall Ferguson and Jan and David Watt

Grant applications / Competitions – TESCO grant application submitted covering outdoor equipment to replace that lost in the fire and also store as above.

7. Events and Fundraising

Review of Halloween Treats Event: Feedback for this event was incredibly positive, the craft kits were especially popular, and the children had a great time going around the village making their deliveries. Laura Ferguson thanked David Watt for the website. Some changes / improvements needed around photos on website and

payment for those who could not use the website, but generally felt that we could do something similar for Christmas. This type of event fits with the Parent Council role of encouraging links between the school and the wider community. Thank you to everyone who helped or supported the event already issued via Groupcall, email and on Facebook.

Christmas Event: Given the complications around any events at present it makes sense to stick to a similar format to Halloween for Christmas but with a wider range of items and also longer shelf life, to try to appeal to more of the community. Ideally volunteers will make one item each and then these will be advertised for sale, Jan Watt advises it would be possible to place a limit on the number of any particular item if required (Fiona Esson commented that we luckily had just the right amount of cakes at Halloween!). Various suggestions such as Hama bead sets, cookie ingredients jar, dog biscuits, mince pies, jam, chutney, mini Christmas cakes, Reindeer hot chocolate, craft sets. Laura to post on Facebook to ask if anyone else able to help and additional meeting to finalise plans to be arranged asap.

Other possible events: Possibility of doing a walk (similar to Playgroup) discussed, needed to check with Playgroup (they are not planning anything) – discuss at further meeting. Also possibility of raffle? There is no hamper for the Christmas Lights On this year so we could perhaps do this, but may be too late and also concerned about too many requests to parents (with children also making items to sell and elf shop at school).

8. News, correspondence, invitations

Various pieces of correspondence received from Aberdeenshire Council regarding meetings, Fiona Esson to attend online. Also, we will shortly receive our funding from the Council.

Useful websites/information for parents:

Education Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/covid-19-education-recovery/>

Scottish Government Guidance on Schools

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-3/>

Parent Club guide to Coronavirus restrictions

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/new-restrictions?age=0>

<https://www.npfs.org.uk>

<https://www.connect.scot>

<https://education.gov.scot> – scroll down to “subscribe to our newsletters” – various ones to choose from.

Facebook pages:

- National Parent Forum Scotland
- Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council)
- Education Scotland