

## Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 26 August 2020

Attendees	Initials	Position	Apologies
Alison Hagan	AH	Chair	Johanna Jenkins
Katie Wotherspoon	KFW	Secretary	Claire Davidson
Kasia Banaszewska-Diaz	KBD	Treasurer	Donna Cameron
Jane Weir	JW		
Kirsten Briggs	KB		
Gemma Easton	GE		
Lynda Colthart	LC		
Santa Lucia Salethaiyan	SS		
Julie Tait	JT		
Mrs Westacotte	KW	Head Teacher	
Mr O'Connor	GO	Principle Teacher	

Committee introduced themselves and then the rest of the participants did too

### UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

All fine

Went through constitution, everyone happy.

### HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

It's been very busy, a significant amount of background work going on in the school. and It has actually been easier to have all the children in rather than the third of children that was originally suggested.

School have had a lot pf positive feedback about how the reopening of school has been handled. Thanks to the staff and the business manager, who has spent a lot of time on the risk assessments.

Staffing has been a challenge with 4 PSAs down. Some of these people will hopefully be back in the next week.

**Home learning** – This has been different across the board, so the children have come back with different gaps in their learning. The intention is to bring forward standard tests to September to identify these gaps and put children in the right groups. The staff are working hard to identify any gaps early, working closely with Mrs Aitkin, the Learning Support coordinator.

**Homework** – The children will have a grid focused on their topics and once the tests are done these will be linked to their groups.

- Reading books can be taken home but once brought back to school they will be left to lie for the time needed to kill any virus.

**Parental engagement** – There has been a P1 open morning and Parent Council meeting on teams and the school is looking for other ways to show the school to potential new families on line.

**PE** – originally the PE teacher could only visit one school but now they can come into two different schools but only two contacts a day. So instead of 5 or 6 classes they can only take 2. The school is looking at other forms of PE like mindfulness

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE PARENT BODY

***Sanitising and washing – why are children having to sanitise their hands at the gate and then immediately wash them when they get to the classroom?***

guidance was they should sanitise and wash. The children may not wash their hands properly so doing both is to make sure. They are following the advice being given.

***Homework and homework diaries – What will the children be given homework and without homework diaries how can parents communicate with the classroom teacher?***

A homework grid will be given out and changed on a monthly basis, starting with a couple of reading exercises. This will start 1<sup>st</sup> September. Average of two activities a week to choose from and will share with teacher at the end of the week. They will then move on to maths and spelling. The grids will be shared on Teams. They should be uploaded at the beginning of the week and home learning should be uploaded on to Teams as well. It will be in the Assignment box. Details will be sent out by St Margaret's messenger.

They are not using homework diaries at the moment. They are doing liaison for kids who need it by email.

***Should we use teachers' emails to communicate with teachers instead?***

KW will take this away and speak to the teachers. Not allowed email open when teaching so teachers may not be able to respond quickly.

***Why no PE kit?***

School thought children would be turning up in joggers so didn't think it would be needed. They might identify specific PE days to help but they want the children to come in outdoor clothes.

***Confusion for parents over what the kids should wear, joggers not appropriate for the weather, trainers get wet, what shoes should they have at school?***

Ideally, wellies, trainers and indoor shoes (plimsolls)

KW will put something out further in newsletter on Friday

Waterproof trousers would be helpful for the children

KB to see if Decathlon will give us a discount on waterproof trousers.

***What happens if a child tests positive for Covid-19?***

The council advice is in Q21 on the council Q&A – School will send the link out to these. They need to make sure they can identify the children who have it but it will depend on the council health team.

They have a room set up if a child develops symptoms and they will be looking for Covid symptoms specifically, not every symptom of a cold.

***How will school support children who are self-isolating?***

Will put learning tools on Teams to access at home.

***Are children allowed to cross other areas of the playground to get to the toilet or the bin?***

There should be a way round to the toilets. The teachers are also encouraging kids to go to the toilet before they go outside.

***What is happening with the Afterschool club, is this something different to the club Jets runs at the Hub?***

Jets want to use School premises to open an afterschool club, independently run from school. The cleaners are the issue and they will get back to the school about potential opening. It would be after the October break but not sure exactly when.

*Will this be separate from Jets at the Hub or are they moving?*

Not sure, KW will ask Jets

***Breakfast Club?***

Still some places for this and plan to have all spaces filled after October break. Big thank you to the teachers who are helping staff this while they have a staff shortage.

***Can you drop off at any time for breakfast club?***

Yes, only limit is that 8.45 will be the last opportunity to get breakfast because they will be tidying up by then.

***How long will Covid measures be in place?***

Don't know, a lot of uncertainty

***What brand of hand sanitiser is the school using?***

The council one and that is the one they have to use. KW has provided a photo of the label that Ah will pass on to the parent who asked the question.

***Is the school doing fogging?***

Yes, it is the type of cleaning they have in hospitals. They are doing it every 6 weeks and it is safe for people to enter the room two hours later. This will have been through several risk assessments. Called Electrostatic cleaning. **Email KW for more info if needed.**

They used to have two cleaners and now they have 4, an extra for lunchtime clean and after school clean.

Big thank you to the cleaning team

***Sailing – is there still a booking?***

Yes, they will honour it and allow them to change it if needs be. This is already funded by PC.

***How do you book lunch for children with allergies?***

KW will get the administrator to confirm how you book lunches for people with allergies.

***How will prospective new parents be able to view the school?***

At the moment only essential adults are allowed to enter the building so they cannot arrange viewings at the moment. They will do what they can to get things online. It was suggested that they update the videos of the classrooms that they have online as these were taken when the rooms were set up for 50% students.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

KFW asked the parent council if they were content to use the money that would usually be spent in the communion breakfast and cake to make gift bags for the children this year, as the breakfast cannot go ahead.

Other things suggested were a photographer and getting white masks made for all the children.

JW to send contact details for photographer, Hannah Beaton photos.

Place that makes masks on St Johns road – JW will send details

No objections to the plans and face masks added.

**FUNDRAISING IDEAS**

**Quiz Night** – A Saturday or Friday – Evening of Saturday 31<sup>th</sup> October suggested.

**Christmas cards** – School supportive of this idea so AH to look into getting the packs.

**Recipe competition** – KFW to work on the idea

**Almond Valley Pass** - Via email after meeting – buy Almond Valley family pass and loan it out to families during the year.

**Match funding** - very important so we must encourage parents to come forward who's employers can do this.

**Donations** - Could we actually ask for donations this year given that we will be restricted in our fundraising – probably not conducive with one in five or the situation many families find themselves in right now.

**Fundraising search** - See if Inspiring Scotland can do us a funding search

**Halloween event** - Could we still do a Halloween event – a quiz at school

#### NEW PC MEMBERS

Everyone at the meeting was happy to join the PC. (need to check with GE)  
Also Claire Davidson and Donna Cameron who were unable to attend this meeting, said that they would like to join as members.

#### TREASURER'S UPDATE

Started year with £2,260  
Now have £2,469

A few things already paid for like sailing, so in good shape although fundraising is going to be difficult this year.

#### FUNDING REQUESTS

No funding requests

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Masks on the bus** – council should communicate this to parents directly

**Next meeting – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 to 8.30**

## ACTION SUMMARY

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Ask teachers about parents using their email addresses to communicate	KW	
Put something in the newsletter about PE days	KW	Done
See if decathlon will offer a discount on waterproof trousers	KB	
Send out link to council Q&A	KW	
Ask Jets if the afterschool club they want to open is separate from the one at the hub or are they moving.	KW	
Ask administrator to confirm how to book lunches for children with allergies	KW	
Pass photo of hand sanitiser to parent	AH	
Send AH and KFW photographer details and mask details	JW	Done
Look into getting the Christmas card packs	AH	Done
Develop recipe competition idea	KFW	
Look into possibility of Almond Valley Pass	AH	
See if Inspiring Scotland can do us a funding search	KFW	
Prepare Kids Halloween Quiz	All	
Check with GE that she does want to join PC	AH	