

Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 27 January 2021

Attendees	Initials	Position	Apologies
Alison Hagan	AH	Chair	Kirsten Briggs
Katie Wotherspoon	KFW	Secretary	
Kasia Banaszewska-Diaz	KBD	Treasurer	
Lynda Colthart	LC		
Johanna Jenkins	JJK		
Mrs Westacott	KW	Head Teacher	
Mr O'Connor	GO	Principle Teacher	
Miss Marshal	JM	P3/4 Class Teacher	

WELCOME

Alison welcomed everyone

UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

See if we can advertise Words and Pictures now for individual photos – Done, link on FB page

Check results of Inspiring Scotland search for potential Breakfast Club funders – Done

Send KFW breakdown of Breakfast Club costs and any other useful info for potential funding applications - Done

Send PC list of things school would like us to fundraise for - ongoing

Set up another Teams support session – two done, no one came. **AP –Tell parents to private message us on the FB page for help**

Send email to whole PC with note about iPad discussion and breakdown of funding position and commitments for this year – We were donated the iPad

Look into whether school can give PC class photo images to get copies printed – save for later

Look into Smarties alternatives – Ongoing

Put message on FB about missing scooter – Done, has been found

Remove parents from FB page who no longer have children at the school – Done as far as we know

Put on FB that if you want anything from the nearly new uniform they can call the school office to request some, The school are also taking donations of uniform and

are particularly keen to get winter coats and wellies – Not done yet, wait until back at school

TREASURER'S UPDATE

In the account as of 27 January 2021: £3,248.13 (with £5 still to be banked)

Outgoings since November – Second Christmas card invoice and email account fee
- £49.69

EDINBURGH PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT MEETING FEEDBACK

Aims of session to give parents info about what had been going on across the City and digital info. It focused mostly on early years.

Highlighting 15 to 20 hours for primary ages with 3 literacy and 3 numeracy tasks per week.

Digital provision – mostly about check ins. High variation across city. Made it clear that there wouldn't be live lessons and the evidence backed up that approach as children learn best in chunks.

Closing the gap was discussed as well as health and wellbeing

Assessment work and tracking

Highlighted what teachers have been doing to develop learning on line.

What has helped children engage with remote learning and what support has helped with this.

For St Margaret's it was felt that smaller groups would enable children to speak more freely. The advice from Edinburgh City Council was that schools should take their own pupil population into account when developing their remote learning plans so this is why there are differences across the City.

They are taking into account the curriculum for learning outcomes to ensure that pupils are moving forward.

KW said - We really want the children to do the best that they can and progress in their learning during lockdown. However, home is not school and we cannot expect the children to be able to do what they can in school. Life is challenging for all our families in different ways and if parents/carers are really stressed with work and doing home learning it will not benefit you or your children to force them to do it when you are stressed. It is much better to put the books/ipad down and go out for a family walk, relax together and come home and see how things are. If work is stressing you, deal with it and then give your child a little more learning another day when you are both in a better place. If they miss a day don't worry, they will survive

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

The staff are all missing the children and when they have had a chance to chat to families, they have really enjoyed it.

Still need people to sign permission forms on Facebook

Hub – This should now be referred to as School, rather than the Hub as it is their own school. There will be a half term holiday.

Head teachers catch up – Families can always get in touch with KW and she can try and find the right person to help

Teams – Huge effort to get everyone one using Teams so big thank you to staff for managing that.

iPads – New ones will hopefully arrive soon. A few have been loaned out

Teaching – There is some live teaching for closing the gap help with reading, writing and numeracy. The class teachers have chosen to go for recording lessons as that will be supportive to more families and less pressure on families. The school does have some additional support externally to help families.

Reading books – The school will be asking for books back and if they are lost they will be asking people to replace them. They will quarantine them and give out new books. They are looking into online programmes.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PARENT BODY

How many pupils are engaging on Teams?

Answer – most families are engaging with Teams and staff are aware of those that have issues.

Are we going to use any live lessons?

Answer – There are some going on for additional support needs and others will be considered.

How many children are in the Hub? And are they doing the same things as the children who are home learning? And are the children in Hub joining the weekly Friday catch ups?

Answer – an average of 14 in the Hub, split into two bubble with two PSAs in each bubble. The children should be joining the Teams calls on Fridays unless they have one to one support at that time.

Assessment via Forms – How is this going to work in practise? Is this multiple choice, written answers? The concern being it will end up assessing IT skills or parent not children. When is it planned for?

Answer – In school they would be encouraging self, peer and teacher assessment so this is leading on from that.

Feedback on learning – why are we not asking the parents as well as the children?

Answer – Parents will be asked before the February half term. There is not always a good return on questionnaires. **AP – help with parental engagement on this**

Large booklets being shared at home, with information for the children to complete imbedded within them. Parents are feeling like they need to print them off as it's a lot to read on a screen but this is a lot of printing. Can this be shared another way? Printouts from school or some other alternative approach?

Answer – If you need things printed out do get in touch with school, they can do this for people.

Can we get some physical resources, e.g. activity sheets, especially for the younger children? The videos are great but they don't replicate what they would be doing in class – for instance, activities linked to the letter formation or the digraph they are working on.

Answer – We are giving the children a jotter, so it is not all online but it is just not possible to have print outs for every family. If there are specific things needed do ask. AH – just need some more practical ideas for things to do that link in with the learning. 5 Minute Mum and You Choose are good resources.

Reading books please?

Answer – Next week everyone will be invited to school to come and get a new book for children. **AP whole PC – consider how to help people get these**

Friday catch up lengths have all been different for different classes (P1 = 20 min, P3/4 = 10 min, P4/5 = 15 min), 10 felt too short, 20 was better and less rushed (the chatting lasted about 15 minutes) can they all be this length?

Answer – Comments shared with staff. They will look to have more consistency around that and make them longer.

Please can we talk about the balance of activities on the grid – e.g. please can we have less Health and Wellbeing – just the Friday reflection or PE listed outside the grid?

Answer – Feeling that we don't need so much PE on the grid and something more useful could fill that space. Suggestion that PE could be outwith the grid as an ongoing thing. **AP KFW – Send KW dice game example of PE activities.**

Appreciate that children are getting to see their teacher for 15 mins a week however, considering other local schools are managing three 45 to 60 minute sessions per week, is it possible that the children could get more than one 15 minute session with the Teacher per week?

Answer – It’s hard when it is a single stream school as one member of staff is preparing all the class material. In a bigger school this is split between two or three teachers for a particular year. They will discuss and assess as a staff team how things are going and if there are any changes needed.

HOW CAN THE PARENT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE SCHOOL AT THE MOMENT?

- Encourage parents to complete questionnaires
- Encourage people to apply for support funds
- Another Quiz would help the community
- Offer to pick up the reading books if anyone will struggle
- Something for children to do during the holidays – dance class, magician, art class led by a parent?
- Photography comp.
- Valentines card competition
- AP – LC to talk to magician**
- AP – KFW find someone for art class**
- AP – AH Zumba**
- AP – AH Judge for photo competition**
- AP – KFW someone for exercise class for half term**

BREAKFAST CLUB FUNDING UPDATE

Applications to go into Tesco, Scotmid, Foundation Scotland. Also try Aviva and other local businesses.

FUNDRAISING CALENDAR - ideas for 2020/21

Zumba challenge type of fundraising event
sponsoring a virtual sports challenge for the kids.

AOB

Next meeting – Wednesday 24th February 7pm to 8.30pm

ACTION SUMMARY

ACTION	OWNER	Due Date
Tell parents to private message us on the FB page for help	AH	
help with parental engagement on this	Whole PC	
Consider how to help people get their reading books	Whole PC	
Send KW dice game example of PE activities.	KFW	
talk to magician	LC	
Look for someone to do art class	KFW	
Talk to Zumba teacher about online class	AH	
Find judge for photo competition	AH	

Find someone for exercise class	KFW	
Send PC list of things school would like us to fundraise for	KW	Ongoing
Look into whether school can give PC class photo images to get copies printed	KW	For when school is open again
Look into Smarties alternatives – Ongoing	LC/KFW	Ongoing
Put on FB that if you want anything from the nearly new uniform they can call the school office to request some, The school are also taking donations of uniform and are particularly keen to get winter coats and wellies		For when school is open again
Message those parents that contributed to a retirement gift to let them know that this will be returned through parent pay unless they would like the school to put it towards a commemoration.	KW	