



Parent Council Meeting – 23 February 2021
(Held via Google Meet)

Present: Ms Karen Orchard, Ms Rebecca Mitchell, Ms Michelle Smith, Ms Krystle Burnett, Ms Anna Royle, Cllr Alison Alphonse, Ms Laura Park, Ms Sarah Burnett (minutes), Ms Katherine Chadwick, Chris Bridle. Lynsey Boyd Acting DHT

Apologies: None

1 - Minutes from previous meeting

Approved with no amendments.

2 - Playground & Nursery Garden

KO – Nursery garden issues with drainage and mud. Parent concerns that the children are outdoors more often and children are coming home extremely muddy each day.

AR – Will take this back to Mrs Du Plessis – it was reported at the last PC meeting and Andrew James came to visit along with Claire Cowan. They had look around various parts of the school that needed some attention. Including the outdoor classroom, as the water does not drain away due to flooring not being originally laid correctly. Could this potentially be changed into fully enclosed classroom? AA will discuss with Andrew Jones.

Continued challenges to zone the playground with the limited use of the playground. Playground space will be further limited when the P4-7's return to school.

Parking was also discussed and it is unlikely that there will be additional parking around the school. AR has received some complaints about parking and has forwarded this on to the Local Authority. There was an accident in the staff car park due to the severe frost which may result in the car park being closed to all staff during the winter months which will make the surrounding area even busier.

AA – Waiting for the report to come back following the site visit that was undertaken. AA will follow this up with Andrew Jones and get back to us.

Park and Stride remains available to use from the Church car park however this is not really being utilised.

3 - Homework

AR – Been told by LA that it's business as usual for schooling for the younger children due to the significant gaps in learning therefore homework as usual.

CB – Trying to find the balance of being aware that some parents are still home working and home-schooling older children and balancing that with some of the gaps that have become apparent during lockdown.

AR – Asked if we check in with the parent group around the level of homework and if this is more than prior to lockdown and will take this back to the early year's teachers and further discussion with the LA re: guidance around homework at this time.

AM – Children have extra curricular activities and timings have changed and spread out across the week and likely to stay this way for the coming weeks which also has an impact on homework as parents trying to support children to stay connected to other children accords their various groups and keep up their physical activities and lessons.

KB – Queried what would be the outcome should homework not be handed in. AR currently there would be no consequence currently for not returning homework however added that if this is a struggle can speak individually to teachers to discuss further.

4 - COVID Testing

Is this mandatory or can staff opt out and if so would parents know that some staff at school weren't regularly tested?

AR – Staff can opt out of this, but this wouldn't be shared with anyone due to confidentiality.

LB – there has been a great uptake and those who are participating are undertaking twice weekly tests and this is recorded and monitored. The individual then logs this with the NHS and the school would not become aware of who or who has not done a test only would be alerted if there was a positive result.

MS – Discussed that the nature of the testing is to help school staff be reassured and as an additional safety measure as the risk is more for a child to pass it to the school staff member rather than the staff member passing it to the child.

5 - P7 Transition

No current update, however new senior manager in place at Oldmachar Academy who will be the lead / link for the P7 transitions has already made contact with AR so plans are in progress and information will come out to parents as soon as possible.

6 - Head Teacher Update

AR – Delighted to see nursery to P3 back to school and looking forward to getting all the children back safely.

Still managing children in the Hubs and the balance between online learning and having children back in school.

LB Assembly - World Book Day will be the theme, however due to COVID and the restrictions in place there will not be dressing up for WBD this year.

Burns competition was enjoyed by the children with lots of children participating in this.

An evaluation will be sent out to parents and children about online learning and how this has been rolled out for children and parents asking what has worked well and what has not worked as well. AR shared that all feedback is greatly welcomed.

AOBC

- Online Safety - could we look at this for the next meeting. Possible training opportunities for PC members to then share with wider parent group. Possible workshops or webinar events also.
- Chairperson for the next meeting – Rebecca Mitchell

Future Dates

~~Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 6.30pm~~

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 6.30pm

Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 6.30pm

Tuesday 01st June 2021 at 6.30pm.