



PARENT COUNCIL MEETING WINDYKNOWE PS

DATE: THURSDAY 6th AUGUST 2020

TIME: 6.00PM

VENUE: SKYPE VIDEO CALL

| ATTENDEES – SCHOOL | APOLOGIES |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Rita Angus – Head Teacher | Cllr Harry Cartmill |
| Gillian Norquoy – Deputy Head Teacher | Claire Gilfillan |
| | Donna McLeary |
| ATTENDEES – PARENT / CARERS | |
| Claire Anderson | |
| Gayle Bowes | |
| Emma Douglas | |
| Jesmond Sathiyakumar | |
| Rhona Tait (Chair) | |

No agenda points were submitted in advance. Chair, Rhona, opened the meeting by thanking Mrs Angus and all the Windyknowe staff for their hard work during the lockdown and for providing a quick deployment of home learning. Mrs Angus updated from the schools perspective on lockdown learning, although they had received very short notice from the Scottish Government about the closure of schools, she felt the school staff did well and worked hard to ensure all pupils had the resources they needed for continued learning at home. It was a steep learning curve for all involved. Mrs Angus mentioned all the hard work of the pupil support staff too in preparing & distributing home learning packs.

The following points were raised by the Chair for discussion:

Reopening of school from Wed 12th Aug

Mrs Angus is aware that many children will need reassurance and encouragement when coming back to school, and many will be anxious about returning. Extra nurture support will be available to any pupils needing it. The most important part of first week of phased return is to let children come back to school and see what the “new normal” will be like, and their health and wellbeing is priority. There have been a lot of risk assessments carried out for all aspects of the school day, and a full recovery plan detailing the return to school is in place. Like all workplaces schools have to adhere to Scottish Government guidelines while trying to maintain some form of school normality. There will be constant communication from the school if things change after the phased return week on 12th, 13th and 14th.

Connect

During lockdown Rhona attended two Connect on-line events and heard how other schools run their PCA’s, and how the PCA’s are involved in consultations with the school. Rhona asked Mrs Angus if there would be any possibility of more PCA representative’s being involved in future consultations, as a parents perspective can be valid and informative to the outcome. Mrs Angus was open to this suggestion and has agreed to an updated PCA Skype meeting on Friday 14th August to feedback how the first 3 days have gone and if parents can suggest any changes / improvements to current plans.



Hygiene: What provision is being put in place to ensure the best possible levels of hygiene in school?

There are protocols in place for enhanced cleaning throughout the school. The cleaners' hours have been increased. The school has electrostatic cleaning carried out every 28 days (a type of deep clean) and this is being done just before pupils return.

Each classroom will have bottles of hand sanitiser, tissues and a tissue bin (so they don't end up in general waste), and soap and water for regular handwashing. Pupils will be reminded of correct handwashing technique and will wash hands frequently throughout the day. Toilets will be constantly monitored and cleaned by pupil support and senior staff. Only 2 pupils at once and door handles etc. will be wiped clean after each use.

Dining hall – the hall will be deep cleaned after each lunchtime. Classes will be brought to hall and sat together in year groups. Four at a time will be brought up to hatch to collect their lunch. Pupils with packed lunch from home will also sit in dining hall with their year group. School lunches will be provided "as normal", but in a takeaway type containers with disposable cutlery. Lunchtimes will be staggered so some years will go out to play before eating and then come into dining hall as other years finish and go outside to play.

Can kids bring in own tissues or sanitiser?

Yes, but they don't need to feel they have to, all will be provided in school.

Will class sizes and groups change?

All classes remain same size, the class room layout may change slightly but group size wont. Most class rooms will have all desks facing same direction (to reduce risk of transmission) and teachers desks will be 2m away from pupils desks. There will be no taped off area or floor markings for distance as this may seem scary for some children.

Can Mrs Angus update parents with this information before return of pupils so parents can discuss with kids what "new" school will look like?

Mrs Angus to advise.

Playground: Will year groups be separated?

As far as possible during lunchtime and break time year groups will be kept in their own areas and should not mix. In the front playground P1 & P2 will swap over during lunchtime, P1 eating while P2 play, then P2 go in as P1 come out.

For P3-P7 in the back playground each year will be in an area, ie. MUGA pitch, pencils area, field, and will rotate daily around the different areas so each year group gets a turn on each area.

Drop off and pick up

The drop off and pick up plans have been detailed in communication from the school today. Staff will be at both turning circle gate and gate from Windyknowe Crescent to receive pupils in the morning. Mrs Angus to follow up with after school collections (Simply Play and Rainbow) to confirm arrangements.

If anyone has concerns about how their child is going to cope with the "new" morning drop off routine please feel free to email Mrs Angus to discuss if arrangements can be made, such as dropping off 5 mins after bell so there are no crowds etc.



Breakfast club

Running as usual from 8am.

Uniform

To be worn as usual. PE days will be confirmed by teachers.

School bags

These should contain morning snack, water bottle, reading book and pencil case if want to bring, but stationery packs will be provided for all pupils. No sharing of any stationery to reduce risks of cross contamination. Water bottles can't be refilled in school, but pupils are provided with milk / water at break and a drink at lunch, so if they bring a suitable water bottle full in morning it should be enough for the day. This will be monitored and if there is a need to allow refills it will be looked into.

P1/P7 buddies

At the moment there can be no meeting with the buddies as year groups are not allowed to mix.

Attendance

Obviously there will be some pupils who will find it very challenging to come back to school, but Mrs Angus will work closely with parents of these children to see how school can help and support them. Daily check on attendance will be made, as usual, and absent pupils will be checked up on.

Gaps in learning after lockdown

The health and wellbeing of all pupils is most important during the first few weeks of return to school. Children need to be made to feel happy and safe in school. After missing 12 weeks of in school teaching there will be children who need extra help, and others who were able to continue learning at home. Teachers measured where pupils were with their numeracy and literacy around the April holidays, so they will be able to see where they are in the first few weeks compared to where they were. Support for learning teachers will help those who need it.

Are there plans for more outdoor learning?

Yes, there will be as much use of outdoor spaces as possible. Increased ventilation in classrooms as part of risk assessments, windows must be open, fire doors open when possible, classroom doors open to get as much flow of air as possible. PE will be outdoors.

Are plans in place for if we go into another lockdown with school closures?

Yes, absolutely. Mrs Angus said they have recovery plans in place for all sorts of eventualities now. Teams would be used again, and the school blog for P1-P3 with more interaction from their teachers.

Home school work for Wed 12th /Thurs 13th for those not in school is all set up and ready to be sent out via Groupcall, Teams and the blog.



Actions from last meeting:

Due to lockdown no progress has been made but these actions will be carried forward.

- No update received from Cllr Cartmill re speed signage on Glasgow Road. RT will follow up.
- No update re pupils procuring signage for turning circle (including idle cars). Mrs Angus suggested the supplier used for the leavers banners should be used.
- No update received from Cllr Cartmill re turning left out of school. RT to follow up.
- No update re school clothing recycling initiative. To be discussed further.
- RT was due to attend the Parent Forum meeting on 11 March. This was cancelled at the 11th hour. No new date scheduled.

AOB:

- PCA pages on website need updated. Rhona to mark up and send to Miss Norquoy.
- Election of chairperson is due as Rhona has completed her year as chair. Mrs Angus thanked her for all her hard work and dedication to the role. Rhona will stay on until October when a new chair can be elected.
- Covid testing for teachers – there are no routine testing plans, it is up to staff to arrange tests in they have symptoms.

Next Skype meeting:

Friday 14th August, 2pm, to discuss first 3 days back.