



PARENT COUNCIL MEETING WINDYKNOWE PS

DATE: WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2020

TIME: 6.00PM

VENUE: SKYPE VIDEO CALL

ATTENDEES – SCHOOL	APOLOGIES
Rita Angus – Head Teacher	Cllr Harry Cartmill
Gillian Norquoy – Deputy Head Teacher	Jenna Dowie
	Lisa Meikle
ATTENDEES – PARENT / CARERS	Lorena Mombelli
Claire Anderson (minutes)	
Gayle Bowes	
Michelle Blakely	
Jillian Jamieson	
Lyndsay Stein	
Evelyn Stewart	
Rhona Tait (Chair)	

Actions from last meeting:

- Speed limit signage on Glasgow Road.
Due to the flashing light signs not being fixed Cllr Cartmill was to investigate the possibility of having additional signs erected.
There have been additional 20mph speed limit signs installed on Glasgow Road but these are small. LS was informed from member of Police Scotland that the reduced speed limits in place in various locations across West Lothian are a temporary measure during the pandemic (to encourage exercise). RT to follow up with Cllr Cartmill if the signs on Glasgow road can be enlarged or if the flashing signs will be replaced.
- No update received from Cllr Cartmill re turning left out of school.
The group discussed the option of this being a voluntary sign like the one on Windyknowe Crescent. RT to follow up with Cllr Cartmill.
- School clothing recycling initiative.
This is currently not possible for obvious contamination issues but the school are keen to implement this initiative and will be looked into when possible.
- Pupils procuring signage for turning circle (including idle cars). Mrs Angus suggested the supplier used for the leavers banners should be used and this will be worked on after the October break.

Head teacher Update:

- Mrs Angus began by thanking all parents and carers for their support and understanding during the current situation. She wanted to share her thanks to all the staff and pupils for their flexibility and understanding of all the changes. The whole school have pulled together amazingly well.



- The Senior Leadership Team have been meeting with all staff to plan teaching over the next term. The teaching focus will move from a priority of health and wellbeing (to help kids settle back into school) to health and wellbeing, literacy, and numeracy alongside other areas of the curriculum. Ongoing assessment of pupils to measure where literacy and numeracy levels are at, also working on supporting those who need extra help after lockdown. The focus is also on building self-resilience and self-confidence again after being away from school for so long, and helping kids deal with the ups and down's of school life – friendship changes etc. Also, revisiting the school values of Ready, Responsible, Respectful and Safe which are core to our school community.
- Staff have been discussing with pupils what they liked and disliked about lockdown learning, and some liked aspects have been incorporated into school routine, such as Inspire challenges, Tech Tuesday and Work it out Wednesday. Virtual whole school assemblies are happening fortnightly so the whole school can come together while still in their own classrooms.
- Toilet checks are carried out frequently throughout the day by Senior Leadership Team and Pupil Support Workers so pupils feel good hygiene and cleanliness is being upheld. Handwashing and hand sanitising are now normal parts of the daily routine in school.
- Classroom bubbles are being maintained in dining hall and playground to ensure pupil safety. A lot more outdoor learning, and outdoor PE are being used to help pupils spend more time outdoors too.
- Since returning to school the attendance rates have been similar to average pre-lockdown.
- Confirmed changes to office staff. Mrs Gardner, Administrator, and Mrs Murray, Clerical Assistant.
- Dismissing at the end of the day is going well with P1 to P3 walking to the park, and P4 to P7 being taken to turning circle, afterschool clubs or main gate to be released accordingly. Parents/Carers are getting a chance to see teachers at collection.
- Parking – there have been a few complaints from residents living in the streets around the school about inconsiderate parking. Please respect the neighbours as they are part of the school community too. Please walk if possible to reduce congestion around school.
- Parent consultations – obviously face to face in school consultations cannot happen this year, so an interim report will be sent out to parents soon. This will show how children are performing in numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing, as well as a personal note from the teacher about each child and a “learners conversation” between the pupil and teacher. There will be an opportunity for anyone who wants to request to speak with the teacher with a 1 to 1 phone call once the reports are distributed. A questionnaire will be sent out to follow up on parents opinion on the new format.
- Head Teacher virtual drop in – Mrs Angus is proposing to offer an hour once a week where she would be available for a skype call or phone call for anyone who wanted to discuss anything with her.



Agenda Points Submitted:

- Clarity required around the process of how Head Boy, Head Girl and House Captains were chosen. It seems that everyone who ran for Head Boy or Girl that didn't get it were automatically given the House Captain role. This seems unfair to the children who applied for the House Captain roles. This is not a fair process and can really affect the pupils' confidence by not being given a chance.

Miss Norquoy clarified the process of selecting the Head Boy and Head Girl and the House Captains. All P7's wrote a speech about why they wanted to be Head Boy / Girl or House Captain. The pupils who wanted to stand for election performed their speech on Teams and the P7's voted for who they wanted. The winners were elected to posts. There was a vote for Head Boy / Girl and then a second vote for House Captains. No-one was automatically given a role.

- Lost Property
Why can't items that are clearly labelled be given back to the children rather than being placed in lost property especially when parents currently don't have access to the school to check?
Could this be done once a week?

Miss Norquoy said any clearly labelled property is given back to its owner when it is found. Parents can phone the school office and ask the office ladies to look in the lost property for a certain item, if they wish to.

- P.E. Teacher – there is no longer a dedicated P.E. teacher.
Why is this?
Why has this not been communicated?
Where has the budget gone for this?

Communication went out in June to say Mrs Howard was moving to Easterton Primary from August 2020. She has left lots of great resources for class teachers to do PE with their classes, all teachers are trained to teach PE. The budget for a PE teacher is being used to support raising attainment with 2 extra teachers to provide support to key stages. Pupils still get their 2 hours of PE each week.

- Teacher resources
Explanation required as to why the children can have more than 2 teachers in one week.

Every teacher has 2.5 hours a week of "Reduced Class Contact Time" to allow lesson planning, marking etc. As there are currently no PE or music specialist teachers, who would have taken classes for part of their , support teachers have been taking classes to allow class teacher their RCCT.

- P7 rehearsals
Usually primary 7 have a lot of rehearsals towards the end of term. Could a video be produced and made available on Teams so everyone can see the finished thing?
Miss Norquoy confirmed that videos are not allowed to be put on Teams due to child protection restrictions.



AOB:

- New Chairperson
There have been no nominations as yet to replace RT as chair. Please contact the school if you would like to take up this position.
- Connect meeting
JJ gave an overview of the “Reaching out to all families” on-line meeting she attended last week. RT commented that she has attended a few of the Connect meeting during lockdown and has found them very informative. The meeting are open to all parents and RT has posted links to the meetings on the Facebook page. If anyone requires further information on any of the meetings please contact Rhona Tait.
- PCA Attendance
The group would encourage more people to attend future PCA meetings. We agreed to send out the agenda ahead of the meeting so people can see what is being discussed. Parents / carers are good at emailing or phoning school where there are issues, and Mrs Angus feels we are an open and approachable school community. If anyone has any suggestions / comments or concerns around the meetings please contact Rhona Tait or Mrs Angus.

Next Skype meeting:

Tuesday 3rd November, 6pm. Agenda points to be submitted to Rhona Tait (Rhona_tait@yahoo.co.uk) by Saturday 31st October. Request to join meeting to be sent to the school by Monday 2nd November.