



PARENT COUNCIL MEETING WINDYKNOWE PS

DATE: TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2020 **TIME:** 6.00PM

VENUE: SKYPE VIDEO CALL

ATTENDEES – SCHOOL	APOLOGIES
Rita Angus – Head Teacher	Claire Anderson
Gillian Norquoy – Deputy Head Teacher	Michelle Blackely
	Jillian Jamieson
ATTENDEES – PARENT / CARERS	
Gayle Bowes	
Cllr Harry Cartmill	
Donna McLeary	
Lorena Mombelli	
Lyndsay Stein	
Rhona Tait (Chair and Minutes)	

Actions from last meeting:

- Speed limit signage on Glasgow Road.
RT followed up with Cllr Cartmill if the signs on Glasgow road can be enlarged. Cllr Cartmill has raised the issue with the relevant department at WLC.
- Road signage re turning left out of school.
The group discussed the option of this being a voluntary sign like the one on Windyknowe Crescent. RT followed up with Cllr Cartmill. Cllr Cartmill has raised the issue with the relevant department at WLC.
- School clothing recycling initiative.
Whilst this was initially not possible due to contamination issues Mrs Angus has confirmed donations can now be received and they will be quarantined for 72 hours, per guidelines prior to being re-distributed. They will take donations at the school gates commencing 4th November.
- 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.

Agenda Points Submitted:

- Concern over the condition children are returning home in after taking part in PE lessons on “the field”. Would it be possible to have appropriate outdoor clothing left in class (e.g. wellies and waterproofs)?

Mrs Angus confirmed that per the curriculum each child receives 2 hours of PE each week and due to the current restrictions, this must be held outdoors. Currently all outdoor areas are being utilised and following a period of wet weather this has resulted in the field being churned up and children getting very muddy.



However, revised guidelines received on Friday state that if certain criteria is met then one period of PE can be performed indoors. The leadership team are working to achieve the new criteria, and as of 4 November the field will only be used for PE if weather permits. Other outdoor areas will still be used and will ensure the children receive 1 hour of indoor activity and 1 hour of outdoor activity each week.

Head teacher Update:

- **Halloween**

Mrs Angus met with the Pupil Leadership Team to discuss the options for Halloween. She is delighted with the outcome of allowing the children to dress up and encouraged by the commitment shown by the children in all their organisation, planning and ideas. They arranged everything and did a super job.

- **Christmas**

The Pupil Leadership Team are now looking at Christmas activities. It may be possible to have individual class parties and options are being considered for a virtual nativity which could be filmed. The nursery will also be looking at options.

- **Enterprise projects**

Staff and pupils are looking at options to continue the annual Enterprise project with a focus on marketing instead of the usual sale of products at the Christmas Fayre.

- **SeeSaw**

Primaries 1-3 are rolling out the SeeSaw App for home learning. This would be particularly beneficial if a child is self-isolating but is well enough to complete class work and not risk falling behind. Both primary 2 teachers are thoroughly testing the App and will be the "go-to" people. RT commented primary 3H have already started using it and would appreciate some guidance on how it works. Both RT and LS volunteered to test the App from a user's perspective.

- **Parent Survey**

Miss Norquoy gave an overview of the recent survey on "lockdown learning". All the responses (63) were positive and there was a good correlation between the parent and pupil responses. IT is the main area where everyone felt they benefitted, and it was a good source of communication for the children. It is an excellent source of continuation of learning and children have learned many transferrable skills. The on-line assembly was popular during lockdown and it continues to be used across the school being managed by the Pupil Leadership Team. The Digi-Tec team are learning about this and will lead future assemblies whilst further developing their IT skills. Future assemblies will focus on how children can use technology more in class and internet safety.

There has been a positive response to the drop off and collection arrangements with both parents and pupils happy to see and talk to the Leadership Team each day. Mrs Angus commented on how they are able to address any issues quickly by having the interaction with parents daily and if things "go back to normal" they will still continue to welcome the parents and pupils as it's a nice start to the day.

- **Class Newsletters**

Given the number of updates and communications sent by the school Mrs Angus felt the issue of class newsletters was a suitable update rather than a whole school term newsletter.



AOB:

- DMcL commented on how the change to nursery drop off at the gate has been welcomed and is working well, as well as the learners journal being a positive interaction between parents and teaching staff. She has nothing negative to report, and can only praise the staff for their great efforts and support.
DMcL asked if it would be possible for the nursery staff to create a video of the nursery set up and staff bubbles. Mrs Angus welcomed this idea and agreed to speak with nursery in the morning.
- LM asked whether class or individual photographs would be taken this year.
Mrs Angus confirmed that due to current restrictions this could not happen. There would be too much activity / footfall throughout the building to make this happen and is not considered a necessity at this time.
- LM asked if the “Buddy” programme would be re-instated for P1 and P7s.
Mrs Angus advised that as the year groups cannot be mixed this will not happen until the restrictions are lifted.
- RT asked if cash donations for dress down / charity days could instead be paid via Ipay to reduce the work and risk for the teachers and office staff in handling cash.
Mrs Angus confirmed she would investigate this as an option and would try to implement for the next charity day – Children In Need on November 13th.
- The group discussed that rather than donating money, could the children donate food, similar to the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative.
Mrs Angus will confirm if this is possible and look at options for the children to donate to the West Lothian Food Bank prior to Christmas.
- Counsellor Cartmill praised Mrs Angus and Miss Norquoy for the way they have dealt with the changes and restrictions and is delighted there is such a good spirit around the school.
- New Chairperson
There have been no nominations to replace RT as Chair but the parent attendees have agreed to share the responsibility going forward to ensure the meetings can continue.

Actions:

- Mrs Angus to follow up with nursery re filming of room set up and staff bubbles
- Mrs Angus to explore the possibility of donations being paid via Ipay
- Mrs Angus to confirm alternative to cash donations and if food donations for the Food Bank will happen
- Mrs Angus/ Primary 2 teachers to follow up with RT and LS re SeeSaw testing

Next Skype meeting:

Tuesday 8th December, 6pm.

Request to join meeting to be sent to the school by Monday 7th November.