

Parent Council Minutes – 18th April 2023

Chair - Donna Mcleary

Minutes – Michelle Blackley

Attendees – Rita Angus, Gillian Norquoy, Councillor William Boyle, Laura Weir, Evelyn Stewart, Evelyn, Emma and Claire.

Apologies – Rhona Tait, Juliet Redmond, Claire Mitchell, Lynsey Stein, Councillor Harry Cartmill, Councillor Tony Pearson and Councillor Pauline Stafford.

Points discussed

1 - For the new school year 23/24 the structure of the classes will remain the same with the exception of the P1s who will be split from 3 classes into 2 classes. The reason P1s have 3 classes is it gives them the best possible start.

2 - Teachers reinforce school uniform during class but it is done sensitively. The school focus more on school colours rather than the badges. PE day's children can come to school wearing their gym/sports kits.

3 - As discussed at a previous meeting the school were looking for different seeds/plants for the planters. Donna checked Seeds online for free but this offer must have past. Evelyn may have a contact or source from her work, so she will look into this.

4 - The front playground have resources for the children to play, these are used on dry days and are stored at the side of the nursery entrance ramp. P7s usually bring them out for the P1s & 2s.

5 - The P2-4 show theme is children's musicals. This is being coordinated by Miss Purdie. Both day & evening performances were a success for the P5-7 show, so both are being considered for the P2-4 show. Discussions will take place with teachers as an evening show is over and above teachers working time agreements so if teachers agreed other arrangements would need to be made to allow them to get time back.

6 - Children can refill water bottles during the day and jugs of water are available during lunch time for children who are not having a school lunch. Ms Norquoy will reiterate this to lunch time staff.

7 - A structural engineer was at the nursery on the morning of 17th April, Greg Welsh the Head of Service was then called in. He made the important decision to reallocate all nursery children from the next day to a Bathgate West, currently an empty nursery building. This decision was made for

the children's and staffs health & safety. It is initially for a 2 week period but prior to children/staff returning another extended survey will be required, again to ensure the health & safety of everyone.

It was noted that parents complemented the management team for being at the new premises during drop off and collections. Mrs Angus said that the children were safe, happy and settled very quickly.

The P6 soon to be P7 buddies also went along to the setting to play with the children as part of the transition process, more visits from them will follow. Nursery transition will still go ahead but may look slightly different if the relocation is extended. The details still have to be decided but are currently being discussed.

Head teacher updates

Staffing, P6HP class as now been taken over with Miss Porteous and Mrs Wells now that Miss Hesp has left. P4s has been taken over with Mrs Magee and Mrs Smillie now that Mrs Sage has left.

Building works are being carried out in Nursery and the children have been temporary relocated to Bathgate West. P7 children are still out of their original classrooms but have been housed in other classrooms within the school.

School camps still going ahead for P5 to Fordell Firs and P7 to Lendrick Muir.

The school have paid for Generation Science to come in and work with the children providing unique science experiences and opportunities. This has been paid for from school funds.

Transition will take place 14th, 15th & 16th June, more details will follow.

Summer trips are being discussed for each stage, and the school are trying to keep costs as low as they can, under £10, they will also be subsidised by school funds.

Float update – the theme is the 60s as the school is 60 this year. Persimmon homes have donated £1000 towards the float. The school float committee are always looking for any extra help that can be given. More details will follow regarding the float.

Miss Craig has organised bike ability to come to school and work across some stages (details to follow). A free bike health check is taking place on 25th April at the school for children and their family's bikes. Please let the office know if you are interested in bringing any bikes along for this.

Any other business

Laura advised that more funds could be made available to the school from the PSA towards the upgrade of the outdoor play area in addition to what has already been given, if it means that the original plans can then be carried out and completed.

Laura asked for an update regarding the school setting up some kind of foodbank idea, this was discussed at a previous meeting. Mrs Angus advised that it is still on the cards but currently on hold as the room initially thought that would be used is temporarily being used for something else.

Councillor William Boyle said he will raise the continuing issues regarding the Bus Company again with the Council.

Laura is going to try and put together a list of days out/events/activities for families and children to do over the summer period, either free of charge or at low cost.

Date of next meeting's

Tuesday 13th June at 6:00pm