



Parent Council – Agenda

Date: 18th of February 2021

Time: 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Teams Online

Apologies: S Morris /J Roberts

Present: A McIntosh (HT), J Law (DHT) ,M McAllister (DHT) , J Broadley (teacher representative) ,M Jones (PT), K Griffiths (Chair), K Mendham (Vice Chair) ,L McDonald ,E White ,R McAllister , P Tracy , D Nicol , N Simpson, K McEwan , L Lumsden , A Lunan. .Councillor G Low , Councillor A Moir.

Minutes: L Armour (Secretary)

Item	Decision/Discussion	Discussion/Action
1	Welcome/Apologies	Welcome and housekeeping by K Griffiths. Apologies J Roberts and S Morris.



<p>2</p>	<p>Head Teacher update. Part 1</p> <p>Arrangements and priorities for P1-P3 returning to school.</p>	<p>Mrs McIntosh update the PC on the 22/02/21 P1-P3 will return to school. Children of key workers and vulnerable children will continue to attend school. The focus is on a safe reopening for staff, children and parents and carers. The school will revisit risk assessments for individual staff members and children. Staff are currently feeling anxious about the return to school and in order to alleviate this health and safety and risk assessment training has been provided. P1 will have a soft start time of 850am. P2-3 and children of key workers will start at 9am. School will finish at 3pm as usual. Parents of P1-P3 children will be encouraged to wear a mask, keep a 2 metre distance and go immediately after dropping off their children at school. Socialising with other parents is discouraged. Only one adult should drop off a child at school. This is of high importance as any breaches could jeopardise other children returning to school and possibly result in transmission of the virus.</p> <p>All other children will continue with remote learning. Buses will be returning as normal with children asked to wear masks, (sometimes provided by the school), not consume food and stay in their allocated seat. LMcDonald asked if the school could possibly provide masks to parents who may forget she found it reassuring when there was a visible staff presence on the school gates. Mrs McIntosh will consider this but staff safety is paramount. School lunches will continue as before. At school the children will be in zoned playgrounds, and messages regarding respiratory etiquette and hand washing will be reinforced. Employees will be encouraged to maintain a distance and have a 15 minute working time with children. There will also be a focus on the children feeling safe back at school where well-being is key. Staff will be mindful of the time with children as to take a balanced approach to learning and the success of the digital learning.</p>
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<p>3</p>	<p>Head teacher update Part 2 Self evaluation of remote learning</p>	<p>M Jones has been leading on the above with staff, children parents and carers have completed a self-evaluation of learning . All schools in EDC are required to complete a self-evaluation too.</p> <p>Mrs McIntosh attended a PC Chairs Forum and they have been updated on the TMPS learning model.</p> <p>In addition the HMIE inspectors have looked at key areas such as best practice, motivation and engagement within our school. Mrs McIntosh also notified them of our school SWAY newsletter which involves the whole school and continues the school ethos.</p> <p>Our pupil survey had a good response with 88% of the pupils saying they enjoy home learning. They particularly enjoy the live engagement , quizzes and the artist Rossie Stone. The assignments were completed well with the pupils working hard.</p> <p>P4 loved “Little deal, big deal”, identifying this as their favourite task. This will then be examined as to why they loved it so much. One P4 class had 100% engagement!! Some of P7 have now got an additional channel specifically for asking the teacher questions.</p> <p>Most of the children are loving the activities they can do at home, the recent snow brought opportunities to go sledging, which was a happy experience for them. Teacher feedback was obtained too.</p> <p>Mrs McIntosh commented on the many phone calls and emails received from parents who expressed their joy at their children’s learning.</p>
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4	Head teacher update. Part 2 Planning for transition.	<p>BBA have been contacted and there will be a planned calendar of events for the transition of P7 into BBA. This will be done remotely via teams with staff engagement from BBA.</p> <p>There is much scope for the year group for online teaching and everyone is working hard to support the children.</p> <p>TMPS is mindful of children who will not be attending BBA.</p>
5	Head teacher update Part 2. Teacher workload	<p>Mrs McIntosh explained that due to remote learning the teachers had to adapt and become flexible with their teaching. Planning and creating content is more time consuming for digital learning. Some teachers felt they had to be available 7 days per week. The school now advises the teachers issue a deadline for submitting assignments in order for families to plan. EDC have produced a workload document for teachers. Mrs McIntosh is concerned about burnout amongst her staff.</p> <p>L McDonald is appreciative of the feedback teachers give after the assignments and other non-assigned work.</p> <p>K Mendham suggested class teachers collaborated on shared work as she felt the teachers had much work to do. Mrs McIntosh stated some teachers were collaborating for some tasks but differentiated work should be set by the class teacher.</p>
6	Safer routes to school	<p>No further news at present. TMPC is awaiting an answer from the crossing patroller survey.</p>



	<p>Feedback from PC Forum</p>	<p>K Mendham gave an update from this forum which Mrs McIntosh also attended. This meeting was led by Jacqui MacDonald the Chief education officer for EDC and Greg Bremner of EDC. The findings were nearly all children in EDC were learning on a digital platform. The successes were the motivation of staff and pupils. There are challenges around reassuring parents they can do as much as they can manage but the parents have not to be worried about their children missing out on schooling. The schools don't want the parents stressing and have been repeating this message.</p> <p>Transition planning was on course.</p> <p>On return to school the focus will be on health and well-being, literacy and numeracy. This year EDC benefitted from almost 20 additional support teachers: they do not yet know the budget for next year.</p>
	<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Both K Griffiths and L McDonald gave positive feedback on the effort the teachers were making.</p> <p>K Griffiths asked for the minutes of TMPC to be placed on the school website. Mrs McIntosh is considering putting them on SWAY.</p> <p>K Griffiths asked for a schedule for future meetings however Mrs McIntosh stated she wished to wait until further announcements from the government.</p>



Thomas Muir Primary School



	Date of next meeting	Mrs McIntosh will inform the PC in due course.
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