



Thomas Muir Primary School

Parent Council - Minutes

Date: 17th February 2022
Time: 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Venue: Teams Online
Apologies: Natalie Simpson [NS], Councillor Alan Moir [CAM], Linda Lumsden [LL]
Present: Hannah Young [HY], Maria McAlister [MM], Marie Claire Cairns [MCC], Darren Nichol [DN], Laura McDonald [LM], Jennifer Lee [JLee], Emma White [EW], Caroline Clucas [CC], Susan & Jesper Bach [SJB], Ryan McAllister [RM], Susan Lunan [SL], Cllr Gordon Low [CGL], Kirsty McEwan [KM], Allison Lunan [AL], Eman Jihani [EJ], Rong, Peter Tracy [PT], Miss Jones [MJ]

Agenda Item	Details	Discussion/Action
1	COVID Update	<p>[MM] - Covid-19 update/hope this answers some of the points that were shared with PC Chair prior to the meeting. I have spoken with our Quality Improvement Officer today around EDC guidelines and updates.</p> <p>Guidance/Mitigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to implement the mitigations that are laid out in National Guidance and EDC Guidance. Physical distancing between adults/adults and adults/children, the use of face masks in communal areas/corridors, handwashing all continue to be in place in school. Overtime some mitigations had eased at the end of January and then the Omnicron variant meant mitigations were re-visited. Obviously we cannot comment on number of cases in our (or other EDC schools) but we know that we have a robust Risk Assessment in place at the school and mitigations in place for all our learners and staff. <p>Outbreak Management</p> <p>The current guidelines in place ensure that additional measures are in place if there are 2+ positive cases in one class – this is termed outbreak management – and is really a common sense approach that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens mitigations Breaks transmission, and Keeps our children and staff safe. <p>If we have more than 2+ cases in class SLT meet with the class teacher and support these mitigations to be in place for a short period of time.</p> <p>New EDC guidelines will be out to schools next week in line with the changing guidance on the 28th February 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With this in mind we need to take a planned, informed and measured approach to changing operational aspects of the school. Guidance requirement for staggers can be relaxed but we need to plan for and introduce this in a measured way. Our current P1/P2 have not experienced school without staggers, bubbles and mitigations and we need to support them with the changes. It may be that operationally it is a hybrid model of old and new moving forwards. We need to plan for changes but also be able to implement the mitigations (like outbreak management). Lunch times we need to look at how we manage a single lunch break as we now have to look at numbers - Universal Lunch offer in P4 and P5 and from August we will have P6 and P7 to consider. <p>Playground Zones – this is something that we have always had a TMPS but we can now begin to look at rotating/ areas for year groups so that they have more equal access to Muga, playground and also the trim trail for P1 and P2.</p>

		<p>Operation Play Outdoors - In terms of play, the MUGA lends itself to ball games (children access football, Active Schools working with some children to develop netball) but the back playground is sloped. Miss Law has trialled some Operation play outdoors using loose parts. Children really engaged and we are now investing in loose part resources for outdoor play to be used at breaks.</p> <p>Connecting/Equity/Wider life of the school. Keen to ensure that our children can connect across their stages and changes in mitigations from 28th February will allow us to look at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Group assemblies in the hall. • Joined up learning as a stage (when there are no classroom outbreaks) • Looking at rotating access to zoned areas at breaks and lunchtimes • Loose Parts play to support positive play at breaks and lunchtimes. • In person PC/PTA meetings moving forward. <p>[HY] - Possible changes to phased start, Re-introduction of soft start for P1-2, Parent Council/PTA meetings possible face to face in school soonish. Possible mixed PC and PTA to meet [HY] [JLee] - Will parent evenings be face to face soon? [HY] - Possible F2F meetings to be checked, our meetings are later and will take advice on pilots being run elsewhere. Will possibly be on phone as per last time rather than zoom/teams. Will take advice from the local authorities etc [SL] - Do govt guidance and council guidance differ [MM] - Govt update guidance, then council update theirs then the risk assessments are updated within the school [JLee] - Class photos, will they be happening? [HY] - Class photos booked 24/25 March, everyone will have a class photo and see if people want them every year, normally it's only P1/P7 [KM] - Thinks photos of all years is good, could have photos of all classes on display at reception [HY] - Staff photos are updated, agrees having photos of all years would be a good idea to display at school entrance [LM] - Agrees the stage photos would be good allows the other children to see who else is in the year/school [HY] - P7 keen to do buddy activities which were not possible but should restart now</p>
2	Staffing updates	<p>[HY] - Trying to share staffing updates via email etc Two new teachers funded by pupil equity funding (PEF) Miss Clocherty/Miss Grey targeted support and cover in classes Miss Laura Presly (Maternity Leave) back in May, will she go into class or support role until end of year Two new SLA staff, Mr Leggett (P3) and Mrs Skea (P2 & P7) PEF funding mostly of staffing PEF for outdoor play taster sessions, more funding for that and outdoor equipment/staff training PEF funding for nurture room too PEF funding for play to learn resources for P1/P2 [MM] - PEF for money for Rossie Stone - literacy work with learners to support literacy 22 children working with him on targeted support - showcase learning for their families Great feedback on Rossie Stone and the progress being made</p>
3	Traffic & Crossing Patrols	<p>[HY] - was aware of ongoing issues, abusive from parents, poor parking practices etc Community parking warden was doing a good job (Anne) Spoke to Anne's boss, her work hours had changed and not able to be there at school hours HY thinks parking around school is getting better but wants feedback [MCC] - Slightly better and Kirrimuir, Community Police email made a difference. Is use of the church car park permanent? [MM] - Not a formal relationship for parking at church [HY] - Bus access impacted by bad parking [CGL] - Lots of parking correspondence, community wardens focusing on TMPS. New TROs should be introduced. Local residents objected to TROs as they were targeting residents rather than the actual issue. St Dominic's Church, arrangement with school when school opened. They have an arrangement with St Helen's, could we discuss with them to set up a formal arrangement? [CC] - Back gate has improved but issues moved to Torer Road Could the council invest in better pathways/routes to school [JLee] - Westerhill Drive pathway - very muddy and not a nice walk Can we put traffic lights on Westerhill Road/Drive? [SL] - Can there be more pathways as they are becoming a muddy quagmire? Trained crossing patroller at Angus Ave is too cold and refuses to work without a special coat [LM] - 20's plenty sign not timed properly</p>
4	Litter	<p>[HY] - litter becoming an issue round school, wind blows the litter into the school poor bin design means the wind can blow things out very keen litter pickers who are happy to take responsibility to pick up the mess Clean team - have their own song based on Encanto song</p>

		Some adults are throwing litter, not all an issue with the children Might need better bins to avoid the litter blowing out
5	Parent Portal	[HY] - Across EDC, being rolled out on a locality basis Portal is an online communication tool to avoid letter home etc Cashless catering, school trips, fund raising days etc Can report absence Can avoid timetables, holidays and attendance Linked to school twitter Individual logins Launch in a couple of weeks' time for TMPS
6	Parent/Guardian Meetings	[LM] - can we choose between F2F and Zoom calls not everyone is comfortable with zoom not everyone wants F2F [CC] - when do we find out new classes when 4 P1 go to 3 P2 [HY] - not really decided until May, will take lots of data into consideration consider friendship groups etc Jennifer Law will be looking at that and consult with P1 teachers to maintain friend groups Parent might want children kept apart etc
7	Biscuit & Blether	[HY] - weekly assembly, biscuit and blether and postcards home children love the recognition class of the week a big deal [SJB] - great changes, the children really like it, good to appreciate they don't get it each week [HY] - nice feedback on Friday for staff and children The children are happy for their peers etc, nice community feel new mugs for biscuit and blether with school crest etc [MM] - one of the bus drivers got an award [EJ] - nominated the bus driver for the bus award, he was very chuffed, laminated it and it's on display in the bus now [HY] - might need to look at PEF to fund this ongoing hopefully by the end of the year all children should have an opportunity to get an award
8	Uniform	[HY] - Wants a more strict school uniform and often children wearing hoody and "joggies" every day OK to wear "joggies" on gym day but not every day P7 pupils should wear shirt and tie each day as prep for High School Strict rules on uniform at High School Could be funded for pupils with hardship [EJ] - agrees with the P7 shirt/tie rule [LM] - need to remind parents of the standards of school dress including the gym clothes non branded gym clothes etc
9	AOB	Ran out of time during the meeting