



## Parent Council – Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Time:** 6.00 – 7.00pm

**Venue:** Thomas Muir Primary School, Base 9

**Apologies** – Caroline Clucas, Eman Jihani, Gordan Low (councillor), Linda Lumsden, Laura McDonald, Alan Moir (councillor), Ben Rose (councillor), Liz Shepherd, Janine Wodzynska, Emma White. Marie Claire Cairns (secretary), H Young (HT), Ryan McAllister, James McDonald, Peter Tracey

**Teachers Present** –M Jones (ADHT), M McAllister (DHT),

**Parents Present** –Amy Livingstone, Susan Lunan, Thomas Moore, Kirsty McEwan, Darren McNichol, Ana Trindade (chair), Iris Yang. Linda Lumsden

### Minutes:

Item	Decision/Discussion	Discussion/Action
1. 1	Welcome/Apologies	
2.	DHT/ HT Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most staff who were due to go on Maternity Leave are now on Mat Leave, with one teacher to go.</li> <li>• The role which belonged to Megan Jones has now been advertised of a Permanent PT, delay has been from internal surplus which had to be dealt with however now resolved and applications close on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> November. 12 strong applicants and HY hopes to appoint before Christmas.</li> </ul>
3.	<i>Feedback on Parental Survey (Writing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried out parental survey at last Parents Night and then also via email. This was used to gather information for the school improvement plan</li> <li>• 113 responses</li> <li>• Out of 113 – 88 were positive about children enjoying writing in school, 6 disagreed and said children do not enjoy writing in school</li> <li>• Response to feelings about writing at home were roughly the same and consensus is children do not enjoy to write at home.</li> <li>• As a way of supporting children at home 100% Strongly Agreed/ Agreed that seeing writing jotters was helpful and a worthwhile exercise.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents have said Carer Guides would be helpful. As school we will need to look at what the focus is and how it fits within the School Improvement Plan. Also at how the support looks like and what is required from home and what advice and help we can support parents and carers with.</li> </ul>
4.	<i>Parental Engagement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First activity to support is the P1- P3 Come Along Read with me which is happening Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> November. P1- p3 parents have been invited to school as part of Scottish Book Week. At this event Reading Book Bags will be given to P1s and Read Write Book Bags will be given to P2s and P3s, this was a successful exercise last year and we hope it is as successful this year</li> <li>P4-P7 parents will be invited into the School for their Come Along Read with Me events in the UK Book Week which will be in March.</li> <li>Survey suggested Parents would like to see Star Writer Awards- however after discussion it has been agreed that the VIP card covers Reading achievements also. School uses Tweets and Sway Newsletter to promote achievement also</li> <li>Each teacher also already promotes “What a Good One Looks Like ” (WAGOLL) and promotes what a good example of reading/ writing looks like and that is displayed in the Class. Children have a great sense of satisfaction when their work is chosen and displayed and this works well.</li> </ul>
5.	Outdoor area/Playground update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School has had to move the Infants into the MUGA due to the excessive rain at Break/ Lunch.</li> <li>School has maintained some of the Covid Measures when it comes to the Bus travel. P1-P3s are supported on and off the bus for their safety. P4-P7 are trusted to enter the playground themselves.</li> <li>Gordan Low has an update from Alan Bower (Executive Officer of Assets). He has explained that there is been a Procurement difficulty which has delayed the work in the Trim Trail Area. There has had to be a redraft of the Tender Pack and an existent issue with the consultant the council had has been resolved and a new subconsultant has been sourced and the Tender is hoped to have been completed by Early 2024 and on Completion of Tender the work will be able to be started. The Paperwork change means that now a NEC24 has now been completed to allow for progress.</li> </ul>
6.	Uniform/ PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents have mentioned concern over the adherence to Uniform policy. A lot of branded items are seen in the playground which is causing</li> </ul>



		<p>pressures on Children and Parents to wear a certain item/brand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School have already sent reminders to parents.</li><li>• School already points out to children when uniform is not being adhered to.</li><li>• It has been agreed that Parent Council will send a Newsletter to remind parents of Uniform which is accepted.</li><li>• Dummies to be dressed in appropriate Uniform. And displayed in school/ displayed in new P1 Parental Evenings</li><li>• Photographs of pupils in correct uniform to be displayed.</li><li>• Termly update on uniform expectations to pupils and parents</li><li>• Possible bank of Uniform to be available in school for families. Liaise with Lorraine in Asda for possible donation.</li><li>• Update at next SWAY</li></ul>
7.	P2- P3 Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents have expressed concern over the transition between P2 Play Based Learning and P3 More structured learning</li><li>• In last session Parents felt the transition was quite sudden and felt forced and some children struggled with the new concept.</li><li>• Questions for Jennifer Law (Head of P1-P3)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What measures are in place for Transition between P2 and P3</li><li>- When do the children learn about the differences?</li><li>- Do children get to experience the changes before Summer?</li><li>- Can parents be briefed in the changes as to prepare the children at Home?</li></ul></li></ul>
8.	<i>Pod Toilets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It has been noted by the new P1 Parents that the Toilet Pods have windows at them which do not provide enough privacy for P1s.</li><li>• School have explained that these pods are used at break and lunch and therefore these windows are also used by the staff to ensure the safety of children using the toilets on these occasions.</li><li>• It has been agreed by the council that visibility of the toilets is not acceptable and we will cover with frosted film up to a certain level to allow privacy for the infants while maintaining the required visibility to staff.</li></ul>
9.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gordan Low has update from Alan Bower. There is no policy in regards to dogs in the playground and this is something being looked at Council Level.</li></ul>



		<p>There is an issue with access to school grounds in general due to shared space with Nursery and High school.</p> <p>Parents have access to school grounds throughout the day due to layout.</p> <p>Parent Council have suggested adding a new sign to be added to gates to say No Dogs Allowed. School will send out another update on SWAY and on Group Call</p> <p>Parent Council will send an update on this in the Newsletter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gordan Low has update in regard to Window Cleaning. Window Cleaning comes under High Level Surface Cleaning, and this is currently out to tender and costs have increased. There is a council budget coming up in March and hopefully budget will accommodate this.</li><li>• Gordan Low has explained that there is no appetite now to change the Air Ventilation systems in the school and this is something which is already dealt with when building the schools.</li><li>• Gordan Low has mentioned an update in regard to Parking. It is noted that Parking is still a big issue at TMPS. St Dominics Volunteers have contacted Gordan with complaints of abuse and unpleasant experiences which they have received from parents restricting access to car park/ using car park. Parent Council have agreed to communicate to parents that Top Car Park is not permitted to be used but bottom car park is via the Parent Council Newsletter. School will also Groupcall and update on SWAY again. Parent council have agreed to price signs to state No parking, cardboard no parking signs, and PTA has agreed this is something they could part fund. Cost could be circa £100. Scheme has started in Bishopbriggs to stop Parking at nearby local schools. This will be assessed in a year. Police are supportive of scheme and consequences will be analysed. Parents to be advised to contact 101 if they witness any undesirable behaviour.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twitter Update- it has been noted that twitter is now back up and running and that there have been a few teething issues. But Twitter is now a fully closed page and only allowed access has been granted.</li><li>• School have noted that systems will be down on Tuesday due to a system update but it will be</li></ul>
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# Thomas Muir Primary School



		afterhours and parents will receive communication in regards to it.
10.	Date of Next Meetings	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024