

Parent council meeting Tuesday 16th November

Welcome

Present: S Sargent, A Whitfield, A Brodie, J Reid, L Robertson, G Massie, K Stewart, C Rattay, L Wisely, E Walker. L Timmins, B Redmond, S Stewart, K Kinloch

Apologies: Shaeron Smith, Geva Blackett

Head teachers report

Staffing information:

Early years practitioners – 1 post filled, 1 still required.

Losing 2 PSAs: moving to other jobs. Therefore 2 posts to be advertised.

Building and Maintenance:

Car park light and on way out of school – faulty and reported. Awaiting repair. Hopefully to be repaired as 24hr task.

Drains – drain contractors were in to look at pricing for rerouting the drain in the region where the flooding occurs. Drain to be re - routed to main drain rather than to soak away. Section of playground will therefore need to be sectioned off and repair may well occur in term time to get it done most cost and time effectively.

Toilet refurb is going ahead, new flooring, drainage, vents etc. (looking at late Feb into Easter)

Looking at complete refurb of *community resource hub* also as not currently purpose built. Surveyed for asbestos etc. Will happen during term time. Plans for resource hub and toilets shared.

Academy links: Mr Foye is the new HT, DHT (Mr Priest). Agreed that closer working between the secondary and primary should ideally occur. Aboyne was the first shared campus in Scotland and ideally sharing of resources etc such as the all-weather pitch. Hope to work more closely with staff team and share resources.

Had been hoping to hold a joint Christmas fair, support from council withdrawn due to rising covid. Looking at spring event instead if possible.

Welcome to Katie Stewart – new P2 teacher that joined at start of the year. Has kindly agreed to be staff rep.

Parent pod to be held next week. Topic: curriculum development – UN rights of child development, comm links with regards to young workforce etc. Looking for parental support. Parent pod next Tuesday.

Pupil groups are now up and running: pupil council, rota kids, eco committee, health and wellbeing group, friendship groups.

Question from C Rattay – any word on Spanish teacher coming back. Presently not allowed to come in. Rosario will come back as soon as able. Hoping that languages can be taught through school also as part of 1 + 2. French will be taught across the school; initial additional language needs to be one that can be continued to secondary school. The additional language may vary.

Children in Need – secondary school do it so well. Fundraising team wondered about dropping Halloween dress down day in favour of Children in Need – as a campus.

Remembrance Day: AW commented that this could perhaps be a joint event.

Safer routes to school

Additional crossing: agreed and to be completed in 2022

School signs were meant to be fixed.

Parent concern – lights – cars still are not stopping – does not feel safe.

Also: new crossing, will raise with Paul.

Note out to parents not to park at the new crossing.

Also note re car park – some cars parking in obstructive position not allowing taxis etc to get out. Lots of people parking on the pavements around the car park again.

K Stewart to look at junior road safety officers. Will look at doing a wee presentation with classes. Consider redesigning signage etc.

Consider cones within the car park. Gemma will look to speaking with local police officer. Also consider on Bridgeview Road.

Treasurer's report

Sitting with a healthy fund, funds are increasing. £15400 in the bank.

Few P7 calculators and accelerated reader still waiting to be debited.

Money for shelves still sitting, looking to measure and get bought. Money has now been present for over 2 years since coop donated it.

Progress has been made with speakers – order being made this week.

£9500 ring fenced for playground

£1186 from winter festival fund. Ideas needed: canopy suggested – AW – concerned could be subject to vandalism. Mrs Lobban had mentioned about a wooden structure. Out the back of the dining hall. Could give a little bit of cover outside for a class.

£2600 required this year. Headstart for next year's commitments leaving £800. i.e. need to raise about £1800 to continue levels of support currently being offered.

£150 per class still to be given. Previously very few receipts (only 2) received though so? is it still useful. Incidentals and trip money amalgamated. Elaine suggested not giving out till receipts are processed. Compromise from AQ suggested – requisition form - proposed expenses, KS has offered to collect receipts etc. Sarah highlighted that it is useful for a fundraising point of view it is very useful to show why parents are donating their money. AW pointed out the accountability aspect.

Julie highlighted that a replacement for her role will be needed before her daughter leaves the school at the end of this year.

Playground update

Funding applications continue – further rejections unfortunately. Marr partnership have had a staffing change

New fund – Scot gov – mental health. Has discussed with Aileen Longino to see if might be eligible to access it.

Ideally would like to do as one portion but could be done in stages. Would that cost more? Perhaps needs to be scaled down a little?

Equipment would be good for school, outdoor classroom potential. Capital equipment – lots of places to don't fund equipment. Challenges therefore ongoing.

Price does change but as so changeable Komplan have said to get back to them once bulk of funding is achieved.

EW wondered about scaling down. Becki suggested keeping going until end of financial year and then reassessing then and consider scaling down at that stage if it looks like further funding can't be achieved.

Gemma will look at coop funding application with Becki.

Fundraising update

First new team fundraising meeting happened last week.

Many thanks to Elaine who is stepping down after many years. Has

£179 – pre-loved uniform.

£413 – cauliflower cards

Gin bottle raffle £50 in 1 hour

Tea towel project - thanks to teachers for getting this done quickly. Order forms out by email. Shaeron has also emailed class reps. Hoping to get back in time for Christmas.

Festive Tuesday – last day of school – Christmas dress down –donations will not be asked for as felt a lot to ask for money at Christmas.

Bingo night booked for Feb 4th: L Robertson to run.

Fundraising to try and use Facebook parent council page more. Would be good to get photos of kids using parent council funded items. Share pupil council updates, eco comm photos etc also.

World book day – considering a sponsored readathon. Would be in March.

Class rep update

Still no rep for P5/6 and P7.

Julie has kindly agreed to do p7.

Katherine Kinloch has agreed to do P5/6

AOCB

Now class dojo/seesaw are no more parents are wondering about photos of the classrooms. Twitter is a potential. Lots of improvement activity happening and staff already very busy so aware is a challenge to prioritise this. Ideally after Christmas would like to look at having parents back in classrooms if possible –i.e. open sessions etc.

Elaine has a “car load” of Santa suits. What to do with them? Katie has agreed to keep them just now.

Homework: is there a homework policy throughout the school? Could there be any consistency with days homework is issued etc. Very difficult to stipulate for every class as content varies etc.

Accelerated reader: link to world book day. Highlight to parents as it seems many parents are unaware. Some are very informed but many not. AW suggests a topic for a parent pod.

Question re age and time leaving children at school. Legal responsibility lies with parent till 9am but there is an adult available from 8.40am.

Ski trips and Dalguise: not going to go ahead at present time. Insurance companies have said won't cover any cancellations due to covid. Looking to do activity week for P7s again to give them something memorable. Possibly something for P6s also – on a smaller scale. Not beyond possibility that restrictions and things will change and if so a trip would be considered but presently doesn't look feasible.

Claire's daughter won a class trip to a local estate through winning a pumpkin carving competition. Difficulty with buses.

Next meeting: term 3. Date to be confirmed.

Parent pod next Tues: Parents chance to contribute to School Improvement Plan. Explain the processes the school goes through.