

Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 5th October 2021 Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

Attendees:

Lee Picken (Chair), Dee McIntosh (Secretary), Serena Broadway, Leanne Gordon, Alexa Pope (Head Teacher), Sonia Rutherford, Poilin Glacken, Naomi Barton, Gillian Smith, Vasiliki Pothitou and 2 guest parents.

Apologies:

Mhari Hargreaves, Ian Simpson, Ingrid Donaldson, Neil Rudram (Treasurer), Dani Dinwoodie, Catherine Salmond

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTIONS
Head Teachers Report	• AP confirmed that the school have been asked to make no changes to staggered starts, breaks etc • AP confirmed that the shorter day for P1 and P2 will remain. LG asked if AP could explain to parents why this has been implemented. • AP did say that they would consider changing start times when allowed to and will consult parents on this as there is some flexibility e.g. all start or end at same time with P1 and P2 finishing / starting 30 mins earlier / later, keeping the 15 minutes difference at either side etc. • AP confirmed that the school is still struggling with absences related to COVID-19 and that as Mrs Gordon is now off sick for the longer term they are currently focussing on protecting their support for learning programme. This has put PSA recruitment on hold. • AP said they are looking forward now to more of a focus on subjects like art and drama and PE whilst still prioritising numeracy and literacy. The kids have are really enjoying this. • COP26 summit will be a big focus for learners with a new topic looked at each week. The children are learning to be agents for change and this will filter down into many aspects of the curriculum. • Safer routes to school is being restarted again and staff are trying to be at the gates as much as possible in the morning and at the end of the school day. JG has been selected as a priority school to review routes to school. An Edin Council survey has been issued and closing date is approaching soon. SR asked if the school newsletter could add in a reminder for this. On the back of this, AP expects that a travel action plan will be created and meetings will be held with parent representatives. • AP confirmed that we are, frustratingly, no further forward on the build of an outdoor classroom. Discussions with Mitie could take up to a year before anything can be built but we need to know how much money we have to spend (from Treehouse closure) and when we will get access to this.	• AP to reconfirm P1 and P2 shorter days and reasoning behind this. • AP to add reminder to parents to complete safer routes survey in the newsletter. • LP to contact drama studio for a possible return to JGPS.

	• AP confirmed that, as yet, Drama and French after school clubs have not resumed. These either need to be run by volunteers or by private companies. No one has approached the school. LP said she would contact the Drama Studio and see if they were interested in coming back. • Similarly Gavin (a local parent and previous gymnastics teacher) hasn't approached the school about a return to school gymnastics.	
Previous Minutes / Class rep updates	• Confirmation of gaps in class rep list: ○ Nursery – Serena Broadway ○ P1 – Gillian Smith ○ P2 – Catherine Salmond ○ P3 – Leanne Gordon ○ P4 – Vasiliki Pothitou ○ P5 – Dani Dinwoodie ○ P6 – Poilin Glacken ○ P7 – Mhari Hargreaves • LG highlighted a few questions / issues from the P1 group: ○ Request for dogs to be kept out of the playground and for rules to be clarified. AP said she would put something in the newsletter about this. ○ Feedback that the P1's are enjoying eating in the canteen ○ Parents would like to understand the accident reporting at school. AP confirmed that parents should receive a phonecall for all headbumps. For wet clothes, they would be bagged and a change of clothing given. For any other cuts children should receive a Mr Bump note to take home in their book bag. ○ LG asked about absence reporting and AP confirmed that the juni admin account should be used for this. • P4 parent had asked for an update on when parent consultations were happening. AP confirmed that P4 to 7 meetings would be w/c 1st November and P1 – 3 would be w/c 8th Nov. They would be held via TEAMS and would be 9 minutes long. • P2 parent asked whether nativity would be happening this year. AP confirmed that it would, in some shape or form. ID would confirm when nursery consultations would be happening. • P1 parents asked whether a class photo would be put in the evening news this year. AP said she felt it was late as they hadn't been contacted already - but would see if she could contact someone to check this.	• AP to address dogs in school issue in the next newsletter • ID to confirm when nursery consultations would be happening. • DM to carry forward thrift shop update and CCHS student involvement in fundraising to next meeting.

	• P6 parents asked whether a camp would be happening this year. AP confirmed that they would not be having a camp for P6 but they were organising an extended day trip. • No update as yet on other minute points (thrift shop and CCHS student involvement in fundraising). Carry these over to the next meeting. • AP confirmed that Cello testing was beginning for P5 children but unfortunately our school would no longer have access to a brass teacher as they have moved to Craigmount. AP confirmed that she was in discussions with Mrs Davies about introducing the recorder lessons.	
Road Safety Plan	• SR asked if class reps could issue reminder about the survey from Council. • Parents had noticed the roads being busy again in Baberton at school drop off / pick up. Most likely caused by the bad weather returning. • In JG SR suggested we could do with some well placed yellow lines but other than that the road issues seemed OK. • SR also asked that AP let Mark know and send on the information we already captured last year in our own survey to ensure they have all the information.	• AP to put an update in the newsletter reminding parents to fill in the road safety survey. • AP to pass Mark our action plan from our own road safety survey that SR created last year.
Fundraising Update	• VP and LG agreed to help with the Halloween hunt. AP confirmed that the school could do colour printing required to support this. SR confirmed that sheets would go home in kids book bags on Friday before October break. They were looking for volunteers to “house” the letters for the letter hunt. • AP said the staff were getting excited by ideas for their calendar this year. AP confirmed they would also definitely be organising Xmas cards and that some classes had already started their designs. • LG suggested doing a 100 Club similar to that run by CCHS. LP had spoken to someone at CCHS about this and explained roughly how it would operate. There would be some admin up front but then not much thereafter each year. • There was some discussion about how money would be dealt with for a 100 Club. Should we set up a new bank account for this? Should we use parent pay?	SR and LG to attend meeting with Village Hall committee to discuss a joined up Xmas fair tree lighting ceremony on 28 th Nov

	• LP confirmed that the Village Hall committee were keen to involve the school in their Xmas tree lighting ceremony this year. The committee are meeting next week to have an initial discussion about how this could work. LG and SR would like to join. Suggested date for the Tree lighting Xmas Fair is 28th November. • LP asked whether there is a school choir that could perform at the Tree lighting this year. AP said they would have something ready but they have not rehearsed at all this year. AP to discuss with Sarah.	AP to organise school choir to be ready for Xmas fair lighting.
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NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday 1st November