

Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting

Date/Time: *Wednesday 22 January 6:15pm*

Venue: School library.

Attendees: Amy, Nikki, Mrs Kinnell, Mrs Scott, Roz, Sarah M, Sarah F, Mark, Emma, Christine, Lauren, Rachel, Ali, Nicola, Mrs Brack, Kirsty Spence, Ms Craig, Kate, Veronica, Eily, Judith, Jenna, Anelli, Linda, Gayle, Carol

Apologies: Rebekah, Fiona L, Jana

1. Apologies, minutes & actions from last meeting
2. Head Teacher Update:
Steps following meeting about ASN – see attached

Noticeable changes enhanced management structure at the moment - Mr Stuart acting DHT here until summer, Mr Birchen in nursery, Mrs Molony taking career break and Mrs Hughes off on maternity leave soon. Senior management each taking on year group(s) to focus on.

Building work – moving around for classrooms to accommodate repairs. Giving staff a chance to revamp and rethink classroom space when moving back in to improve things.

Doors open out directly onto street and need to be easy to open due to fire regulation. This has led to some pupils leaving without permission. New lock system being installed soon to stop children exiting the building without permission. There's a delay before it opens and an alarm goes off. No date yet for installation but it will be soon.

School bells/lines – part of school environment issue. Children coming in calmer now. Bell rings when it is time to come back in i.e. after playtime and lunch time. Teachers will dismiss children for breaks and end of day which should reduce bottlenecks on stairs etc. Teachers collecting children from playground after lunch and break. Children who have an issue with lining up have different arrangements made for them. So far the new system does not seem to be having a detrimental effect on lateness. Lunch bell – dinner sittings this still happens but children will be told the difference between the handbell and main bell.

Active Schools – CLASP have priority for rooms, 2 classes being revamped so CLASP have less room available so they've requested the gym from 3 not 415/30 onwards at the moment. Short term issue, should be back to normal after February break.

School Streets – launches 2 March, Mrs Fraser and Judith plan to raise profile – anyone else interested in getting involved? Local police officer has been supporting recently to block off the road during drop off and pick up and discourage parents from parking too close to school or parking dangerously. School looking to introduce walking bus system – centralised point where children are met by volunteers with hi-vis vests to walk the children to the school. Tesco Car park is potential meeting point – **parents interested in helping with walking bus please contact Mrs Fraser**. It was highlighted there was the potential of confrontation by disgruntled parents to other parent volunteers.

3. ASN - Emma – asked what the timeline was for each stage rather than just saying things would be complete by June. It was noted child planning meetings haven't happened in a year for many families, usually these are annual unless there's an urgent issue. SCERTs – why only a pilot? School need to do training plus there are stages before that. Pathway 1 pupil needs can be met within the classroom by teacher. Additional help Pathway 2 – help from other areas of the school. E.g. group learning, support for learning etc. then they move to ASAP – additional support from external organisations.

There was concern if there were several children on pathway 1 or 2 or 3 in one class and how would this be staffed? If there are several pathway children in one class it is school's responsibility to decide how to support that class. It was felt by some there's still not enough support for school with current situation. FC stated level of absence among PSAs is far lower than before which is helping.

Emma asked if Education Welfare officers room could be used for ASN children. FC said they are looking at another room for sensory equipment in addition to Ms McConnell's room.

The school environment has been audited to make sure the physical environments is safe and aligns with the school values. Computer room is no longer needed as the school now uses lap tops. Once the classroom revamp complete this will be available.

Emma and Jenna are very keen to get a clearer understanding of when the plans are coming into action and what's happening within classrooms now. Nikki suggested that parents with specific interest in this they should meet up with the staff members who are looking after that year group.

Emma asked - once extra staff leave after summer what will happen? It was noted it would be better to have more consistency in staff. AB stated measures that have been put in place are sustainable.

Jenna – expressed concerns about number of staff outside at playtime/lunchtime. There's now Lego and new toys brought out during the break time. One of management team will be outside every break time as well as PSAs, consistency in reactions to situations in the playground from all staff.

Traffic light system – non visible consequences are difficult for many children to understand, as they can't see the naughty child being told off. It will not be brought back.

Mark asked about after school clubs available for a child with ASN. He will speak with school staff separately for more information.

P2b – Mrs Spratt covering at the moment, currently finalising recruitment of their new teacher.

Bullying reporting and resolution – Nikki highlighted an issue with a parent who's child was victim and the bully and child were brought together to discuss however subsequently the victim felt they were getting into trouble by the end of the conversation. **Behaviour policy will be distributed by Miss Craig soon.** Pupil council will be reinstated.

Assembly cancellations – buddy assembly rescheduled, updated calendar going out soon.

Mobile phones – Benmore – **ban, FC to consider this?** Usually policy is you can use it on the bus but hand in for duration of trip. Policy for day to day school is still to hand in at 9am get back at 3pm. Local police coming in to speak to older pupils about social media soon.

Lauren asked if philosophical thinking taught in school? World religion and moral education is taught but it isn't covered explicitly at the moment. Philosophy 4 Children how to debate how to listen to others etc, currently taught through other areas e.g. mock court. LPPC curriculum group could be rebooted and this issue could be addressed. **Anyone interested in rebooting this and becoming involved contact Nikki.**

4. Christmas Fair

See attached. Seemed quieter this year and but money raised was about the same and we still made a good profit. Suggested starting at 1130-2 next year? 1130 to catch the nursery crowd and most people are ready to finish by 2.

5. Bake Sale

Request for information on how much is made and what it is spent on. Voted to continue class per week

6. Social Events 2020 – **Sunday 2nd Feb Bingo at Leith dockers 2-4pm £1 per person and £3 per book or 2 for £5 Please support this event.**

Movie night – Gym available, hours are available from school quota. Toy Story. Fri 21 February?

Ceilidh - Ceilidh kids £100 plus £120 for room Star of Sea. £3 for adult £1 for child Friday 13th March 6-8pm.

P7 are looking for a free date to run an event for a fundraiser for their end of year event. Consider end of year trip that would suit pupils who aren't interested in discos etc.

7. Playground update

Still no date from parks department 😞 . Nicola was told that the team are working on urgent repairs elsewhere. Loose play items will be phased in class by class. Mural going on the side of the shipping container. Looking for donations of gloss paint or spray paint. P6 and 7 would like a chill out zone. **LPPC asked if there's anything we can sort out/donate now school to let us know.**

8. Any other business

Funding votes

£1260 not £1000 for in house panto – agreed. In house panto wasn't very good this year but children enjoyed it and it worked out well for younger pupils. Lyceum show was good and suitable for older children. Look at different production company for in house panto for Dec 2020. Also consider Imagine festival in May instead of panto for younger pupils.

Notice board - £300 for larger better noticeboard. **Agreed Nikki to look at this.**

Swimming gala – not happening.