

Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting – including AGM 16th September 2020 6:15pm via MS Teams

Attendees: Nikki Dunne, Angie Brack (AB), Rachel Andrew, Struan Noble, Sarah Fraser, Rebekah McVittie, Ali Wiseman, Alexa Gatineau, Kirsty Welsh, Hugh Stuart, Luciana Janicova, Anneli Kuukku, Lauren Sweeny, Jenna Caplan, Fiona Craig (FC), Rachel Riley, Sarah Morrison, Gayle Blair, Linda Hawkins

Apologies: Nicola Lamberton

Agenda

1. Chair update

During lockdown we still managed to sort the class photo project out, it raised £460. LPPC paid for the P7 t shirts as their leaving present as they usually get money towards their trip.

Individual photos will go ahead on 30th September, they'll be done outside and we're using a professional photographer who will be paid this time but we'll still hopefully make a good amount of money for funds. Ali would like a digital photo this time available, **Nikki to explore**.

Class list app – we need more people to join this. Any ideas how to get people signed up. There's a suggestion of a prize draw for anyone who signs up. **Please encourage everyone to sign up for this as it will be a helpful way to communicate now we're no longer able to congregate at the school.**

2. Headteacher update

Leith Primary School Headteacher's Update

16th September 2020 *(additional notes from meeting in brackets and italics)*

Staff meetings, council HT teacher meetings and assemblies are all now being done over Teams video calls.

It has been a busy start to the school year with lots of new procedures and routines for pupils, staff and parents to get used to. The vast majority are adapting very well and it is a joy to finally be together again after our long break away.

Current restrictions have impacted in almost all areas of school life. There is a deluge of information flooding into schools each week. We are being careful not to bombard pupils or parents with more than is necessary but appreciate there are mixed levels of interest in COVID-related information amongst our parent body.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT SCENARIO

There have been a number of positive tests reported in several schools in Edinburgh. The health & safety protocols in place in these schools have been effective in mitigating further spread of the virus. Health Protection Scotland are highlighting Edinburgh Council as being an example of good practice to other local authorities.

Should a child or member of staff display signs of the COVID virus, they would be immediately isolated in our designated isolation room on the ground floor. The parents of the child would be called to collect the child and siblings would also have to self-isolate at home. All family members would then request tests and follow the NHS Scotland guidelines. The school then works very closely with the Health Protection Team and track and trace procedures are enacted. This has not translated to whole classes being sent home so far. The wider school community is notified officially only when the parents of pupils who have been deemed to be a 'close contact' have been contacted (*the whole class is not required to self-isolate only those children in close contact*). This is usually late on the same day and sometimes on the following day. All schools must follow this protocol. If you have not been contacted about a particular case, your child will be expected to attend school as normal. The areas affected by the virus carrier would then be deep cleaned. (*Mr Dominguez is back at school to support any pupils who have not been able to keep up with learning during lockdown and need extra support at this time*)

Children who are asked to self-isolate will receive work either by email or through the post from a central bank of Home Learning grids produced by the council. Children who display symptoms of the virus should rest and recuperated.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Pupils and staff continue to adhere to current CEC Health and Safety Guidance which can be found on the main council [website](#). A health and safety group meet every Monday morning to discuss updates and Ms Craig, Mr Wall and Mrs Brack attend a weekly Headteacher's Health & Safety briefing with Senior Council Managers.

Staggered starts, breaks, lunches and finished times are working well to maintain physical distancing between class 'bubbles'. Use of toilets are monitored and usual small jobs of responsibility are limited to avoid movement in the corridors.

Physical distancing means that clubs, cross-class learning and pupil leadership groups cannot proceed in the same way at the moment however we are working around this where we can. Support for Learning is happening with Mrs Ciechanowicz and Mrs Clarkson in two classes per day. We are also looking into virtual meet ups for pupils using Teams in class.

Our janitor provides touch-surface cleaning from 11am until 1pm every day. *(the council had been unable to recruit extra cleaners – this is common across the city which is why the janitor is doing this role)* This includes doors, toilets, handrails etc.

We have raised our ongoing concerns about the standards of cleaning and have been assured that agency staff will be brought in to address these concerns.

BEHAVIOUR

The majority of children have returned to school in great spirits, thriving in the company of their classmates and settling well into the routine of school life. We have seen some significant improvements in a range of areas with some pupils who have really benefitted from additional time at home with their families. However, not everyone will have had the same experience of lockdown and a very small number of pupils have found the transition back to school very difficult, particularly those who found school challenging prior to lockdown. We are working hard to support these children but fully appreciate the impact some of the behaviours have on other children at times. When children 'act out' like this they are communicating a difficulty or unmet need which may stem from complex developmental or environmental factors. Understanding this does not excuse these unwanted behaviours and all children are given the clear message that expressing their feelings through hitting, kicking, swearing and so on, is never acceptable. The vast majority of pupils respond well to the consistency of our Positive Relationships Strategy however, there is no quick fix and no one-size-fits all approach for those with the most dysregulated behaviours. Like all children, they need time to settle, nurture and consistency between home and school. We are grateful to parents who have been in touch to let us know about any issues regarding their own child. We know you will appreciate that we cannot provide details about how other children are being supported but are happy to look at how we can support your child with managing tricky situations. If anyone wishes to know more about how behaviour is managed in schools and in Leith Primary, please see more on our school website under [Promoting Positive Relationships](#) and also the [CEC Statement on Inclusion](#).

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There will be no in-person parent-teacher consultations in 2020. We are looking at ways to provide parents with an update on their child's progress that will be equitable for our parent body. Parents can continue to contact their child's teacher about their learning via the Online Learning Journals.

It is likely that packed lunches will remain in place until Christmas. It is vitally important that all lunches are chosen on ParentPay by Wednesday the week before otherwise they will not be made up by the kitchen. This extends to those eligible for Free School Meals. All but four classes continue to eat lunch in their classrooms. Any concern about your child receiving the wrong lunch should be taken up via the admin email address. Children have around fifteen minutes to eat their lunch in class which was the average length of time pupils took when using the lunch hall. However, we are finding that lunch has become a much more social event in the classroom and some classes are taking a bit longer. Staff supervising lunch in classrooms can use their judgement about when to take a class outside and any pupil who has a lot left to eat can take this outside with them.

PRIMARY 7

Primary 7 Prefects are not currently able to 'look after' younger classes just now however the pupils are being given some jobs of responsibility such as lunch deliveries to outside classrooms and making up Hot Choc packs for Recognition Book winners. Mrs Moloney is also working with Primary 7 on our Equalities and Diversity agenda. We hoping to set up P7 pupils doing virtual story time sessions with younger classes and virtual buddy class sessions.

OUTDOOR RESIDENTIALS

The official line is that residential trips will happen from January 2021 however this is dependent on COVID restrictions at the time. We would be happy to go with a P7 Benmore residential instead of P6 if this was possible. We are unable to say at this point if the Lecht Skiing trip will go ahead in January but hope to inform parents either way very

SOON. (hopefully hear in the next week or two. There's a possibility that Benmore and Lagganlia may not be supported by the council financially, AB is encouraging parents, pupils and parent council to write to the council to ask them to support these centres as they currently aren't supported by the furlough scheme and are in danger of closing completely. Alexia asked about trips – can school let parents know there's an option it might happen and they might have a chance to start saving so they don't have a last minute rush to try and find the money. FC reminded parents there is the long term savings on parent pay which you can start using again)

PLAYGROUND

It is unlikely that our playground will undergo development until at least 2021. We are working with the Edinburgh International Festival to install a temporary outside stage, similar to the one in another local primary.

3. **Treasurer update – see separate document**

Accounts for end of March we've a surplus on the year and our balance was just under £14,000. Lots of fundraising coming in from before lockdown. We've lost Xmas fair and gala day money for this year so far. There's some ring fenced money for the P6, now P7 to go towards currently cancelled Benmore residential. Main expenditure at this time of year is we funded some of the Christmas theatre experiences. The theatre company are hoping still to come again in December however this is unsure at the moment. We can look at other ways of using this money to support the school.

4. **Christmas Fundraisers**

- Calendar – adverts all sold so far. Children will do self-portraits this week. Calendars on sale from early December.
- Christmas Cards - packs will be distributed to classes soon for them to work on their designs, pick up to take to printers is the end of October – wrapping paper, cards, mugs etc are available as usual.
- Proposed raffle alternative – to minimize paper raffle tickets, cash handling etc. we've a new idea - Streets of Leith – buy a square which represents a street, a proportion of the money raised goes as a prize and the rest of money raised goes to LPPC funds. Andy S – will potentially be able to create a website to allow parents to buy a street and use paypal to pay for their ticket. Potentially have a stall outside school nearer Christmas to allow for cash sales. **Or any other ideas for alternatives?**

5. **Playground** – we know revamp won't go ahead very soon. Is there anything LPPC can contribute to help augment the class play equipment and outdoor learning equipment? Speaker for music in the playground approx. £100. Agreed to spend up to £2,000 on playground equipment. Jenna feels more should be spent on playground equipment rather than books. AB suggested equipment that is not a specific game equipment would be ideal for children to use their imagination.

6. **Library** – also we're unable to use this at the moment based on current rules. We usually have £500 to spend on books, should we use this for class libraries instead? £100 or £150 per class. Judith asked could we do a **call out for donations of good books from families doing a clear out at home** and LPPC offer up to £150 per class including nursery to help boost class libraries. **Class teachers to advise on what books they'd like.**

7. AGM appointments for Secretary, Treasurer, Vice- Chair and Chair

<u>Position</u>		<u>nominee</u>	<u>seconded by</u>
Secretary	Judith	Nikki	Nikki
Treasurer	Lauren	Nikki	Judith
Vice chair	Sarah	Lauren	Nikki - thanks to Sarah for stepping into this role!
Chair	Nikki	Rachel	Rebekah

And thanks to Ali who is interested in looking at taking something on next year.

8. AOB

Calendar tea towel – Ali prefer tea towel to the calendar and wonders if we need to promote this more next year. Or improve look of the calendar. Ads already sold for 2021 and cost to do this is completely free but **Nikki can explore the tea towels again for 2021.**

P6 trip – Rachel A asked for confirmation that this years P6 won't be going to Benmore (assuming that P7 take the date), it is unlikely we'd get 2 bookings. Rachel asked for something to be sent to parents and pupils. AB is looking at alternatives Foxlake, Bowling, Trampolining etc instead but it depends on the Covid rules. The outdoor education team are still available for assist and run events so school is looking at day trips like Bawsinch - den building, open fire cooking etc. **Fiona Craig will be in touch with a plan b – she would like to be able to go to the classes with a plan rather than just saying that it isn't happening.**

Rebekah – is Trinity House tour guide programme going to happen? They are considering walking tours of Leith or P7s making a film about history they all ready know about. They have funding and would like to replace the experience and use that money. **FC to report back once she knows more**

Struan – behaviour concerns from a lot of parents, there seems to be less proactive communication about this happening at the moment where someone's child is hurt as a result of another child. Can a parent be contacted when a child is hurt, currently they are finding out when the child gets home from the child. FC said sometimes the children aren't telling staff which may be why the school isn't contacting parents about their child being hurt. It depends on what has happened and the age of the child. For low level issues the staff member deals with it but when it is more significant the teacher or senior leadership team would contact the parent. Also as parents aren't able to chat to staff after school things may not being passed on. **Struan can get in touch with FC if you want to discuss further.**

Judith – Mock courts programme, they were looking at running it online but feel it isn't going to be the same experience so it is unlikely it will happen. **School will look at alternatives to give pupils that public speaking, team building experience.**

Lauren – parents night – FC mentioned potentially online video link booking programme set up which may happen in 2020 or may be just after. They will not be face to face as usual. They will let us know asap.

Toilet visits – Alexia - some children are finding it confusing and holding back going. Is there another procedure which is easier? FC said on the whole it is working ok but will look at this. They will do a

reminder on the virtual assembly this week and potentially have someone from each class help others understand how it works.

Sarah – concerned about the bad language especially among the younger pupils and wanted to highlight and ask how it is it is approached by staff. FC said it isn't tolerated and staff pick children up about it. Different approaches by different families makes it difficult as it normalises it very quickly for some children – from parents, music, gaming. You tube, TV programmes etc. It is unfortunately very normal in many households and the school is trying to make the pupils understand that this is not acceptable in school. **AB suggested it comes from parent council as well as school.**

Rachel A - there's been feedback from pupils that they are being told bad behaviour just happens and you have to get on with it. AB responded it may be how the pupils are interpreting it making it into a bigger issue than it actually was. Pupils shouldn't be thinking that they need accept there are mean people and this is not how the school approaches bad behaviour. **Rachel can speak with FC separately if she wishes to explore this further.**