

Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 27 January 18:15 – via MS Teams video call

Attendees: Nikki Dunne, Judith Weir, Fiona Craig (FC), Lauren Sweeney, Veronica Melichar, Nicola Lamberton, Ali Wiseman, Kirsty Welsh, Alana Clarkson, Angie Brack (AB), Hugh Stuart (HS)

Apologies: Kate McDonald, Rebekah McVitie

Update from chair – Streets of Leith online raffle – raised £930 after costs (around half of usual total) this time we had Paypal fees and £250 prize, Tea Towels – all sold, £370 in sales and calendar raised £2,050 which is advert sponsorship plus sales of calendar.

1. Headteacher update

HS did update – Two platforms being used mainly Teams for P4-7 nursery – P3 online learning journal. Staff are posting activities and videos on the grid for OLJ. Teams – some staff using assignments feature but not all yet. Some positive feedback from parents on use of Teams. 42 devices have been loaned out – I pads, tablets from Hibs and lap tops. We've now run out, we've had to keep some for pupils who are in the Hubs for learning need to use them. The school are awaiting 60 I pads arriving which are on order.

Hub children – mix of reasons they are there but mainly key worker children. 55 children in total, not all in everyday.

Staff are providing tailored support for some, including 1-1 calls with some children. Also organising printed resources for some families. Massive part of their role at the moment is being an IT helpdesk to many families. We're building a space shit as we are flying it! Please give feedback so they can adapt.

The city has turned off the ability to call other children across all licenses as there were concerns about safety. PSAs will put in slots of time when they can have playground time where a PSA will be online at the same time to keep an eye on thing, this allows the children to still stay connected. PSA can also do individual support with some pupils too.

Survey results – will be used to identify other issues where school can support more. Team may be used in younger age groups. It requires significant adult input and all P4+ had experience in the class before the lockdown. If parents are keen for younger children to use Teams for video call socialising the school will look into facilitate it but would need to consider concerns about equity for prolonged use as there are no spare devices.

Nikki asked about gallery view for class calls – has the council restricted this? AB thought it might be related to the device used. She will explore this. Teachers have mentioned that they find it strange that during the live calls they only have the circles with the initials rather than seeing their pupils' faces.

Alana – when did P5s learn how to use Teams? AB did 3 sets of training in November and December. Alana finding her daughter is very unfamiliar with it. FC has said that parents can Whatsapp photos of their work to the school number if they are not finding using uploading to OLJ or Teams particularly easy.

Teams - Going forward the children will be asked to use Assignment function more. This goes straight to the teacher rather than uploaded into the Pupil Folder. Office has a dictate function

which can be used for anyone who wishes to read aloud their work which then appears typed up on screen.

School are looking to put together some help sheets together – they are finding new functions to it still. Kirsty asked why Edinburgh council do not provide this for the schools and school staff are expected to create these documents. Head teachers across city are sharing things that they have found helpful and help documents they have created. They are recognising that one size doesn't fit all and things being done at one school will not necessarily work in other schools. Could Parent Council do anything to push for the Digital Learning Team to provide guides to how to use Teams rather than putting the onus on teaching staff? There doesn't seem to be any help about how it works on their website.

Fridays – looking to use Friday to do staff development rather than staff being constantly online or doing class calls, get pupils to do independent learning tasks on Fridays. The online social calls could be facilitated by PSAs to free up staff time.

Kirsty – their experience is much better this time, Lily is happy and engaged – daily contact and structure is far better this time around.

2. **Leith Chooses** - Voting is now open – school sending another text out. Please vote!
3. **Food bank** – school thanks all families who donated cash or items before Christmas. There were many very grateful parents/families who were delighted to be supported in this way. There were more than 40 families helped before Christmas including toys as well as food. A text went out the other day about doing this again and so far 61 responses looking for help. There were some dry goods left over along with contact at Hibs they've created more boxes for now. So far they've created 17 boxes.

School have been in contact with Cyrenians as they can source and deliver (to school) bags of groceries for families through their Fareshare provision. To be part this scheme there's a monthly payment or annual payment - £91 per month (or £1,101 per year) - for enough to make up 60 bags per week. We don't know how long the legacy of this situation will last so Nikki proposed we sign up for their monthly fee (reviewed throughout the year) which means we can support 60+ families every week – vote passed. AB said they are looking at ideas for how to facilitate this including do staff make up the bags or do families collect what they want, storage of items etc.

4. **Future events?** – P7 end of year event – do we start planning and thinking about June celebrations, assuming there will be no residential trip this year, do we use Benmore money to pay for something special for the end of the year trip. There was approx. £1200 raised by P7 parents fundraising plus LPPC pledged to donate too. It was suggested we set up a committee of parents and staff to help organise year book, sweatshirts, day out to Foxlake etc. AB would be the staff member. Nicola asked if Benmore would happen this year at all for P6 or 7, FC said it was very unlikely. There's an existing booking for 2022 which we will hopefully manage to use.
5. **AOB** – class library order which was passed during Sept meeting is with Lorraine so money will be transferred from photo money in school fund to pay for it. Books ready for children once they are back in the school. The playground equipment has not been ordered yet.

The fence is has gone in the playground which opens up the space and the next thing to go will be the shed but it is expensive. Nicola wondered if community service team would be available

to take down the shed. The removal of the material is the issue rather than the manpower and making good the ground after removing the shed. £1,400 was the cost they've been quoted for the work. FC keen to get another sheltered area set up. Plans are still there for the council to come and sort out the area on the playground where the temporary unit used to stand. Ali W has a contact with Kenny's Skips based in West Lothian who may be able to help with the costs. She will explore after getting more detail from Mrs Kelly in the office.