

DRAFT MINUTES OF COCKENZIE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT LINK MEETING
TUESDAY THE 3RD NOVEMBER 2020
MEETING TOOK PLACE ONLINE DUE TO CURRENT GUIDELINES

Present: Claire Jamieson (Co-chair and Parent Representative), Marie McMath (Co-chair and Parent Representative), Lynda Banks (Headteacher) Anne Thomson (Clerk) Morven O'Byrne (Parent Representative) Heather Cadogan, (Parent Representative), Sarah Cunningham (Parent Representative) Eilidh Watson (Parent Representative)

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Welcome and Introductions made to new members

Apologies: Neil Gilbert (Local Councillor) Lachlan Bruce (Local Councillor), Fiona O'Donnell (Local Councillor) Jennifer Harris (Parent Representative)

- AT to extend a regular invite to the PTA
- Parent Link meetings should be avoided on the first Tuesday of the month due to a clash with the regular Community Council meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting two meetings March and September were agreed.

COVID- 19 UPDATE

- Extra cleaning costs are now at £5,000. The Local Authority has requested that the extra costs incurred should be recorded closely, as Scottish Government may reimburse.
- Scottish Government are now advising masks in playground for parents at drop off and collection which is being largely adhered to.
- Some parents have raised concerns about teachers wearing masks in the school. Lynda has referred enquiries to the Scottish Government guidelines and highlighted to parents that the teachers are permitted to make a personal choice.
- The school have ordered reusable opaque masks, which can be cleaned with anti-bacterial wipes.
- Indoor PE has started, although the children are still encouraged to get out for the fresh air, if weather permits.

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

There was no headteacher report for this meeting as the school newsletter has just been issued. CJ requested any recent updates and Lynda confirmed:

- Class Attainment meetings are to be held over the next few weeks.
- Data is to be analysed using SEMIS system
- Parent Consultation information has been sent out
- PEF funding was agreed to be targeted at reading attainment, but this also included Mrs Mercer to be out of class 1.5 days a week. As she is now on secondment to another school this is to be reassessed.
- Uptake of free school meals has increased significantly anywhere between 30 and 60 children, where previously it was around 20 children.

- Christmas pantos will be online. The drama group who were coming to perform the panto in the school can perform online for £100. It is also likely that the school may watch the free online panto at the Brunton Theatre as well. Christmas lunches at the school will take place over three days. The nativity is still to be discussed but class parties should be allowed in the hall, as per the current guidance correct at the date of this meeting.
- Further activities such as the usual St Andrews day and Burns night celebrations will not be going ahead.
- Staffing changes coming up as Mrs Blevins is retiring, so interviews will be held soon for her position and also some nursery vacancies. Two new janitors are in the school. Mr Mcleod and Mr Lyons. Their role allows for cleaning as well as janitorial duties, so that will help with the extra cleaning required during the pandemic.
- Bookbags have been received from the library and will likely be distributed to P1. At the moment the Scholastic Book Fayre for world book day in March 2021 is presenting a problem due to the requirements to have the books delivered to the school not children's homes. This is some time away and will depend on Covid-19 guidelines at that time. There may be a chance to do something with Usborne Books and there may be a rep at the school.
- P6's will be selling Poppies for each class but they will not be allowed to go round the classrooms.
- There will be some Children in Need activity within the classes. The children would like to dress in spots or yellow and will be collecting small change for anyone wishing to contribute. P1 teachers will organise a communication out about this.

WHAT NEXT FOR PARENT LINK?

- Prior to lockdown Parent Link as a group had some clear aims and actions around what the group can do to support the school with small achievable projects focussing on sustainability, poverty awareness and the school environment. As a group we need to consider what is still possible to achieve in more difficult circumstances of the pandemic. Parent Link want to be active in our support and the school and it is a good time to perhaps clarify our roles.
- EW as a parent of a nursery child will let other parents in the nursery know that she can be contacted with regard to escalating queries to the group.
- AT will send out a summary of the action points we were previously looking at, particularly with regard to the planned improvements to the infant playground and look at what we can still do.

AOB

- The school may send out a google survey in order to determine the parents and children's ideas about the changing colour of the P7 sweatshirts. Hoodies are still discouraged, and Lynda has discussed this with the owner of the Post Seton shop where the bulk of the school uniforms are ordered. Coats and jackets are encouraged now that the colder weather is here and due to guidance the classrooms are ventilated. It is not appropriate though for hoods to be up whilst teaching is taking place.
- It is hoped that the "Christmas Post" and exchanging of Christmas cards could be again replaced with the class trees and messages that worked so well last year. Lynda will remind the children of the environmental impact of sending Xmas cards and there is also a positive impact on time and cost for parents.
- World Book day could be marked by a book swap amongst the children but guidance is obviously hard to anticipate, so that will be decided closer to the time.

- Scottish Government fund of £20 million has been released to support those families who are digitally excluded. Lynda estimates this would be 75 families at CPS.

THRIVE OUTDOORS

- Eilidh works at Inspiring Scotland. More information about the organisation is here: <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/>
- The organisation can assist the school with resources for outdoor learning such as Loose Parts play tool kits, practitioner tips and other routes to outdoor learning and play.
- Lynda will let CPS lead on outdoor learning, Verity Barrie know and Eilidh can make contact with her via the school admin email address.

Date of Next Parent Link Meeting: 14th January