

MINUTES OF COCKENZIE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT LINK MEETING  
WEDNESDAY THE 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021  
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) Heather Cadogan, (Parent Representative), Eilidh Watson (Parent Representative), Lachlan Bruce (Local Councillor), Neil Gilbert (Local Councillor) Jennifer Harris (Parent Representative), Louise Philips (Parent Representative), Mr Stitt (Depute Head)

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Welcome and Introductions

Apologies: Louise Clarke, Xanthe Duncan, Morven O'Byrne, Sarah Cunningham, Fiona O'Donnell, Jacqueline Carpenter, Alexa Hill

Minutes from November and January meetings were agreed.

Claire suggested meeting more frequently in the short term (monthly) to get updates on the full return to schooling but also to try and come together regularly to review any possible action that we can be taking to improve the playground environment. Suggested dates 24<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 25<sup>th</sup> May.

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

On behalf of all staff Lynda expressed her delight at seeing the return of the nursery to P3 children with full attendance. The children have settled well back into their classroom bubbles, PE is still taking place outdoors. Parents have all been wearing masks in the playground and adhering to guidance on distancing.

Staff are all very hopeful that the P4-7s will also be returning full time soon. A letter will be sent out about the return to full schooling and Lynda will be confirming that the usual uniform rules will be relaxed to ease the financial burden of new shoes etc.

Lynda noted that pupil engagement with the increased amount of google meets online has been high.

There won't be any changes to the previous arrangements for the children regarding eating lunch, staying in bubbles etc.

New play equipment has arrived, the children put together a wish list and these were funded by PTA and Scottish Government.

The newly planted spring bulbs are sprouting through despite the previous vandalism. There is no update on that as yet. Lynda and the new janitorial staff are seeking some guidance on the usage CCTV and may be able to erect some signage to act as a deterrent.

Mrs Currie and Mrs Borthwick have been celebrating 30 years of service with the school and Mrs Anderson has celebrated 20 years and will be retiring soon.

Lynda decided not to go ahead with a parent survey on google learning, the children were providing good feedback through the weekly "Friday Reflection" forms that allowed staff to monitor engagement and any requirements or requests.

### LEARNING ESTATE REVIEW

There will be a survey issued out to parents soon by the Scottish Government as part of the Learning Estate Review. This is a long term consultation with stakeholders reviewing all schools in Scotland, the buildings, fixtures and fittings.

The general discussion for our school in particular was all in agreement that the building was tired and very old fashioned. The inside hasn't been updated/upgraded for decades, even since the time some parents were themselves pupils. Some areas of the building are no longer fit for purpose for example, the small gym. Mr Stitt said that the facilities for male teachers are inadequate, not all parts of the school are wheelchair accessible and the disabled toilet facilities need a complete overhaul, there is no tracking or hoist. Items like blinds and other fixtures also need replaced in many areas.

Nursery and P1 parents will struggle to take part in this as many have never been inside the building due to home schooling and pandemic.

### WORLD BOOK DAY

Unfortunately World Book Day will be affected by being online but the teachers have put together a great online programme to complement the week. There will be an update in the newsletter regarding the activities planned for P1-3 and P4-7. The live assembly that week will be dedicated to World Book Day and there will be other activities to encourage reading for enjoyment and a book token available to download.

### PLAYGROUND ENVIRONMENT

Hopefully we will be able to carry out some activities over the coming weeks and months to improve the infant playground but this will be dependant on access and distancing guidelines and at the moment. Meeting more frequently would enable our group to make the best of any opportunities that arise, as well as working with Seed to Plate and ELOSCN.

### AOB

Traffic round the school is an ongoing problem, with a parent reporting to Lynda a taxi driver parked dangerously at the top of Osbourne Terrace and the South Seton Park end very recently.

It is generally thought that a lollipop person should be in attendance at the Inglis Avenue/South Seton Park junction due to ongoing visibility, parking and speeding problems that cause danger.

Lachlan confirmed that there would be no budget for a second Lollipop person and this would mean the present crossing patrol at the pelican crossing on the main Edinburgh Road would be moved.

Lachlan will provide email address for community council road safety and Lynda confirmed the children and school could be involved in any efforts to solve this ongoing issue.

We had an agenda item to discuss After School club provision from ELOSCN during pandemic and phased return of pupils but we will carry this over as Alexa (ELOSCN staff member) sent her apologies for the meeting.

Date of Next Parent Link Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> March