

MINUTES OF COCKENZIE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT LINK MEETING
WEDNESDAY THE 18th MAY 2022

Present: Claire Jamieson (Co-chair and Parent Representative), Marie McMath (Co-chair and Parent Representative), Lynda Banks (Headteacher) Anne Thomson (Clerk), Louise Philips, (Parent Representative), Sean Stitt (Acting Deputy Head Teacher), Xanthe Duncan (Parent Representative) Colin Yorkston (Local Councillor), Brooke Ritchie (Local Councillor), Jacqui Carpenter (Parent Representative)

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Sarah Cunningham, Morven O'Byrne

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Lynda has sent her headteacher update round for the group to read prior to the meeting. She went over the staffing, as there has been a lot of changes. Mr Stitt is to be acting DHT till October holidays. Mrs Mercer is still in post as acting head of another primary and this post is to be advertised.

Lynda has reported improvements in writing across the entire school year, due to the purchase of resources. Scottish Government requires reporting on P1, P4 and P7, although all children have their progressed tracked in this manner. This is a very positive path for overall outcomes, especially considering the impact of Covid and the aftermath.

Reading is to be the target for the next session.

The pupils have all engaged very well with the concept of houses and captains. They have been celebrating the wider achievements of the school and children.

The lifting of some of the covid restrictions have changed the mood within the school. The staff were all delighted to have the all school assembly back and lunchtime being open for all, with no bubbles.

Parents at the meeting mentioned that their children at home had talked about how much they like being back to that normality.

Lynda is very much looking forward to parents coming into the school again, as so many parents have never been inside.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS

Mr Stitt shared the document he had been working on as a school wide guide to support for learners, which was much delayed due to COVID priorities. This was circulated to the group for comment.

Feedback was that there were some acronyms in the document or jargon that parents would struggle to understand.

Could include role of school in referral process to outside services, Speech and Language, Educational psychology, Occupational Therapists etc.

Explanation of Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

Historically Wallyford Primary had a parent rep for additional support needs where parents could get a bit of peer support. This may have long since changed during COVID but worked well at the time.

Anne to share resources re organisations for signposting parents to, this is available from her work.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Lynda will be working on the school Improvement plan in the weeks to come. They will concentrate on reading and also incorporating local history and groups unique to Cockenzie and Port seton, Like the Waggonway project.

Anne to contact Parent Fiona Braby and get contact details for Waggonway.

Suggestion that the children coincide their library visits with the older talking groups that meet there during the day (Blether about Port Seton Tuesday afternoons as at today's date)

PLAYGROUND ENVIRONMENT

Staff are going to be planting for bees and pollinators in the donated planters.

Dad Craig Wilson has been really helpful in the outdoor classroom and Christine Thomson has been working with the children on planting veg.

P6 have the funds for Caring Castle. Parent Council had £296 to donate to that pot.

AOB

It's possible the school camp may be on but at the moment there is no guarantee of funds back in event of Covid related cancellation.

CCTV improvements covering blind spots should hopefully prevent the older children who are climbing on the roof and damaging school property.

Dates for your diary Parent Council Meetings:

AGM 31st August 2022