

East Linton Primary School – Parent Council
General Meeting
17th December 2020, 7pm online

Present: Lyn Jardine (Chair), Becca Bell (P1), Evie Thomas (P3), Gill Gardner (Head Teacher), Margaret McKay (Principal Teacher/P6), Mrs Peck (P2/3)

Apologies: Kathryn Neill (P4), Jane Perkins (Treasurer), Kirsteen Roberts (P7), Heather McDonald (P7)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The new clerk, Anne Hunter, was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to all participants.

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2020 will be held over until January as this meeting was not quorate.

4. Matters Arising

As the meeting is not quorate any decisions will be held over until January. Lyn Jardine advised that she has made a training request for herself and Anne Hunter relating to the use of the Edubuzz website and will follow this up in January.

5. Chair's Update

Lyn Jardine reported that a Whatsapp group has been set up to allow communication between all chairs of parent councils in East Lothian. There is no update from the local good food alliance. The community garden group will review the survey results and respond after Christmas.

6. Finance Report and Funding Requests

In the absence of the treasurer Lyn Jardine advised that the account balance at end November was £3067.59 with £550 owed out plus whatever required from the agreement at last meeting for school events etc.

November - 50/50 club draw will be carried out in January

7. Head Teacher's Update

Staffing – Additional teacher ,Mrs Thomson, has gone to another school – P5 cover will be advertised. Mrs McPheat (P2/P3) is leaving to continue with her Masters degree. Ruth Peck will increase her days from 2 to 3 to cover this, with support from Mrs Gardner, for the remainder of the session up to the February break when cover for Thu/Fri will be advertised. The nursery nurses are working additional days to assist with literacy support. Miss Walker the newly qualified teacher has successfully completed 2 terms. Margaret McKay reported that Miss Walker is hard-working, described her work as excellent and recognised that she has coped really well at a difficult time for probationers and the school is lucky to have her.

There have been no changes to COVID guidelines since the last meeting. Tracking meetings are taking place to monitor the progress of each child. Formal observations carried out in classrooms allowed acknowledgement of fantastic teaching.

The East Lothian Council Education Plan seeks to raise attainment across East Lothian with a focus on P1, boys and writing. Margaret McKay will represent the school with respect to writing on a Literacy Working Party.

No decisions have been made regarding the school building. East Lothian Council are looking at the whole school estate and will brief in February about what might be happening. The school has received the lowest Cat C rating in two categories.

Out of Hours messages will be put in place on e-mails over the Christmas holiday to direct parents to central support for COVID notifications. Track and trace is currently working well under the guidance of Calumn Stewart, depute at Preston Lodge.

A potential discrepancy in nursery hours between the A and B groups has been identified and solutions are being sought with East Lothian Council.

The teachers are trying to make Christmas feel normal. This week children watched the Brunton pantomime with ice-cream for all donated by Votadini. The nativity was filmed in 28 pieces and put together and has now been seen by everyone. P1-3 watched The White film this week. Parties are being held tomorrow morning with party food – crackers and cookies – no ice-cream. Gill Gardner extended her thanks to all staff and children and parents and recognised the fact they are still standing and smiling is fantastic.

Lyn Jardine expressed her thanks for a great job in a difficult environment.

8. AOB

Gill Gardner confirmed that P7 parents had been contacted about the Annual Camp and that the Parent Council would cover 10% of the cost. P7 will be involved with Outdoor Education in planning the week.

Becca Bell reported on the group convened to look at fundraising. Initial ideas include a school wide colouring comp with East Linton themed picture, 5km fun run with prizes for best dressed, orienteering drive, Tough Mudder, themed dress down days, calendar, recipe book. Sarah Waite offered to give commission on Neal's Yard to parent council. The group will meet next year to take these ideas forward and to investigate potential use of Amazon Smile. Becca Bell also passed on the appreciation and thanks from P1 and P4 groups parents and hoped the teachers enjoyed their well-deserved holidays.

9. Next meeting

Thursday 28th Jan 7pm – 8.30pm – online via Google meet