

Minutes of the meeting
Humbie Parent Council
10th November 2015
Held at Humbie Primary School

Present: Iain Lawrie (Chair), Sally Leighton (Head Teacher), John Dagger (Principal Teacher)
Pippa Murphy, Jennifer Edwards, Tracey McCullagh, Sally Heaphy (Clerk)

Apologies: John Dagger (Principal Teacher),

Iain welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming to the meeting.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT/SCHOOL MATTERS

Raising Standards in Reading

The children have been developing their love for reading through a project called 'Mouse Mansion' and links made with a book shop in St. Boswells. All children visited the bookshop to share their recent work from school and to purchase a book for the school library. Mrs Leighton hopes to continue the link with the shop by taking staff to the shop to attend training on up and coming authors to help inform the author corners in each classroom. It is also hoped that the shop might bring their newly established Author bus to school so that the children get opportunity to work with an author in school.

Raising standards in Writing

Following Mr. Dagger's recent training in Read Write Inc. there have been some changes to the way reading is being taught. These are briefly outlined below:

Monday - Read text through & discuss

Tues – Focus on word level and sound work

Wed – Focus on sentence level work using their reading books

Thurs – Reading books go home for further consolidation.

It was explained that the groups would be more fluid with more regular assessment taking place and that the younger children have been split into 3 smaller groups for the delivery of Read Write Inc.

As highlighted in the School Improvement Plan we are encouraging the children to develop their skills by writing for an audience. The Older children in the class have recently been engaged in writing a story for a younger child in the class – interviewing the child and making sure that they are the main character in the story. i.e. Forbes and the Giant Peach. The children are also being encouraged to get feedback on their writing from the wider community and Humbie Hub agreed to have a writing wall in the Hub to allow members of the general public to leave comments on feedback sheets.

Cursive Script

Pen licences have been awarded and are proving to be a popular incentive for the children to engage with the new handwriting expectations in school.

Other language work:

Mr Dagger has introduced a new daily spelling routine which he shared with those present at the meeting.

Recent work on Alan Pete's sentence types was also shared e.g. 2A sentences

It was explained that a 'Daily Write' session had been introduced to improve stamina for writing. This is where the children choose a topic and write about it for 10 minutes continuously and writing 'I don't know what to say' when they are unable to think of anything to write.

In speaking and listening activities the younger children in nursery and P1 are being encouraged to articulate what they want in full sentences.

Raising Standards in the Early Years.

Would like to approach PTA for a further £1000 to purchase a suitable computer table and cupboards and outside quality blocks and possibly a new painting easel. SL to meet with PTA and discuss as money used for trips is worthwhile.

French 1 + 2

French Café was a success.

Linda Scott has a part-time French club on alternate Thursdays with Saltoun just for p7 children. This is proving a great success with some of the P7 children taking on a teaching role in nursery! We also have a French Assistant, Manon, working with P1 & 2 children on alternate weeks.

French books/French resources have been given by the local authority and these were shared at the meeting.

Assessment & tracking

it was agreed that the red folders were not popular.

Snapshot jotters have been developed with a tracking sheet for each stage.

A snap shot week would happen once a term to measure progress and a snapshot jotter will have work put in for discussion and comments.

A snapshot book was looked at and SL asked how often the snapshot jotters should be seen. It was agreed once a term (4 times a year) with the opportunity for parents to see them during the parent consultations.

The snapshot book idea was received well along with the separate tracker.

Nursery would have a learning profile, which would then transfer into a snapshot journal.

Maths

JD introduced Numicon and explained how it can be used for older children. It helps visualise the maths problems.

5 a day - calculations are done every morning with word problems for the older children.

CATCHMENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

A presentation to the Convenor of the Council along with Saltoun Primary school was made regarding the request to change our catchment secondary school to Knox Academy. ELC have agreed to answer the points made within a certain timescale. Iain is waiting for their feedback and will pass on information when received.

ELAPCM Meeting - 23.9.15

There are training opportunities in First Aid and Food Hygiene which Iain will forward information when the courses are advertised. It was suggested Humble perhaps host some of the courses as they are often at an inconvenient time/location.

There has been a slight increase in the paid for school meals on the back of the free meals for P1-3. Online payments are still looking to come in and it was agreed that it would help reduce the administrative workload.

The Scottish government is looking to increase nursery hours from 600 to 1140 a week, but will depend if SNP are voted into government in next years elections.

Parental involvement survey results came back and we need to tell people more about the role of the Parent Council and how to get involved. Feedback generally good with no major grumbles.

Area partnership – IL to forward dates for meetings

AOB

Feed back on the opening morning was positive, staff enjoyed it and families were able to look round on a Saturday which might have struggled during the week. Some new families did look round with some possible new starts in nursery.

Sally Leighton's new email is: sleighton1@elcschools.org.uk

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, 1st March 2016 – 6-8pm

Thursday 5th May 2016 – 6-8pm

NB: There is a crèche available with Mrs Anderson, please ensure you inform her in good time of the meeting if you require her.