



PINKIE PARENTS MEETING

Pinkie St Peters School

Monday, 25th January 2016

Present: Kirsty Sivell (Clerk) Susan Harkins (Deputy Chair) Morgan Scott, Shirley Bailey

Staff in Attendance: Sarah Ogden (Head Teacher) Helen Gordon (Deputy Head Teacher)

Apologies: Iain Clark (Chair) Clare Morley (Treasurer) Cllr Andy Forrest, Cllr Stuart Currie, Suzanne Douglas

1. Welcome & Apologies

Susan welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting of 14th December 2015

Previous minutes were approved

3. Matters arising from the previous minute

3.1 Parking

This issue is still ongoing. IC will update at the next meeting.

4. Pupil Report

No pupil report

5. Head Teachers Report

5.1 Staffing

Staffing was discussed in detail. Mrs Burbanks goes on maternity leave before the February break and a replacement has already been appointed for her maternity cover. Mrs Burton retired at Christmas and Miss Hunter is now the Principle Teacher in the nursery. HT held interviews for a classroom assistant but hasn't appointed anyone yet. There is a classroom assistant on supply at the moment. HT will be holding interviews next week for a nursery nurse position. There were some concerns raised about the inconsistency in staffing in the nursery at present and HT explained that due to Miss Hunter taking on the principle teacher role and her position remaining unfilled, she has had to recruit two supply teachers until this situation can be resolved.

5.2 Building Work

Building work is ongoing. The new dining room and gym hall are complete and have been handed back. The main build has been pushed back to the end of February but HT is not concerned about this delay.

5.3 Early Years Collaborative - The Scottish Government

The Early Years Collaborative (EYC) is the world's first multi-agency, bottom up quality improvement programme to support the transformation of early years. This method enables schools to test, measure, implement and scale up new ways of working to improve outcomes for children and their families. As part of this initiative the HT has been looking at how we measure. HT has been measuring the impact that the daily mile is having on the children and reports that it is having a massive improvement on the children's health, wellbeing and ability to learn not just academically but emotionally and mentally too. HT is now looking at doing something similar in the nursery where the children do some sort of daily walk/activity.

5.4 Motor Group

The P1 Motor Group started today which will be helping the children develop fine motor skills. Mrs Barclay and Mrs Forsyth are trained in these techniques and will be working closely with the children and identifying any children who need extra input to develop these essential skills.

5.6 Football Tournament

The football team played a tournament at Meadowmill recently and they won the first two matches. Out of a total of five matches they won two, drew one and lost two. The team came 3rd overall and beat The Burgh and Campie School. This result just reinforces the fact that walking the mile and the football training are making a big difference. On the subject of sport, the HT has purchased a basketball hoop and netball hoop for the gym hall and football coaching and netball coaching will be available soon.

5.7 Support for learning

The new support for learning block started last week and dyslexia screening will happen in the next 3-4 weeks. Staff will contact parents after the testing is complete. The HT has submitted the paperwork for the additional and exceptional needs funding. HT has been advised that the funding has all been approved. HT will not know how many hours have been allocated until around March. This highlights the fantastic work that the staff has put in to assessing the children.

5.8 Community Hub Event

The community event is happening on Thursday at 2pm in the dining hall. There are 24 different organisations attending e.g. Police, Fire Service, Citizens Advice Bureau, First Steps, Support from the start, Tenancy Residents Association, Guiding, Health Visitor, Immunisation to name but a few. This will be a drop in

event and everyone is welcome. There will be tea, coffee, cakes & biscuits available. This event is open to all members of the community so please let people know about it. This has been promoted on the ELC website and in the local press so HT hopes for a good turnout.

5.9 Home start & Community Learning and Development Drop in

Home start and the Community Learning and Development team will be co hosting a drop in session on 10th February in the nurture room. Mrs Archibald will be facilitating this. This is a drop in session and the idea is for both services to get to know people in the community. Tea and toast will be provided and people can pop in and have a chat.

5.10 Reading is Braw

HG provided an update. The reading is braw project will start at the beginning of March and the whole of Musselburgh is involved. Children aged between 3-18 will get a reading record to take home with guidelines for parents. The project will encourage children to read more outside school. The children will get treats as incentives to keep reading and at the end of the 15 weeks there will be a party at the Musselburgh race track for everyone who has achieved this. The school literacy week is launching on 3rd March to coincide with world book day this year. A Letter will go out to parents after the in-service day in February to advise parents that this is happening.

5.11 Community Choir

The Community Choir are still rehearsing at the moment and will be doing a performance at some point soon.

5.12 Play on Pedals

The cycle training was really good. HT is planning to wait until they have the large middle ground at the back and will invite get parents in a in groups, want to also use the JRSO's and the police to link in with cycle safety/proficiency etc

5.13 Burns Assembly

The Children are busy practicing their burns poems and auditions are being held this Friday and the following week is the Burns assembly.

5.14 Children & Mental Health

There was an article in the times education supplement entitled 'more children showing signs of mental illness' highlighting growing fears about mental health problems and the impact on education which has prompted experts to host a summit on the impact on education. HT has agreed to speak at the summit.

5.15 Boy's Toilets

The boy's toilets are locked at the moment due to some vandalism. Billy has locked the toilets until the new parts arrived. Graham Brotherston (Senior Repairs

Officer) looked at the bathroom today and he said the things were on order and as soon as they have arrived they will be fixed and reopened.

6. Treasurer's report

CM has had a baby boy so was not present at the meeting (congratulations Clare). SH reports that the current balance is £6,244.00.

7. Fundraising Group Update

The fundraising group will be meeting after the school holidays. They will be focussing on the Marathon, School Fair and Christmas Cards as usual but if anyone has any other ideas or suggestions please speak to Susan.

8. Musselburgh Area Partnership

No update on the area partnership - IC is attending the meeting tonight and will update at the next meeting.

9. East Lothian Association of Parent Council Meeting - ELAPCM

No update

10. Parent Council Membership

KS (Clerk) will be sending an email to check contact details for all member please reply.

11. P7 Fundraising

Suzanne not present at meeting so no able to discuss in detail.

12. Lighting

There are still issues with the lighting at the entrance to the afterschool club. HT says that HARTS have been instructed to do the work. HT is under the impression that it has been fixed but let her know if there are still issues.

13. Standardised Testing

SH asked if the HT had any information on the introduction of standardised testing in schools as there has been a lot mentioned in the media of late. HT has not heard anything about this; HT is very opposed to any such testing and has recently attended a talk by leading professor of educational assessment Dylan Wiliam where he spoke about the negative impact of assessment in schools.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: MONDAY 18TH APRIL