



**PINKIE PARENTS
MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2019 AT 7PM
PINKIE ST PETERS SCHOOL**

Present:

Suzanne Douglas (Chair)
Pamela Grant (Deputy Chair)
Louise Scott (Clerk)
Wendy Barber
Cllr Stuart Currie
Kerry Donaldson
Suzy Falconer
Cllr Andy Forrest
Deborah Forsyth
Suzanne Gilhooley
Suzanne Gunn
Elena Hodge
Michael McGavigan
Cllr Katie Mackie
Clare Morley
Becca Pollard
Gaynor Ross
Louise Smith
Heather Young

Staff in Attendance:

Colette Bonnar (Acting Head Teacher)

Apologies:

Marie Hartley
Morgan Scott
Cllr John Williamson

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Louise welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Apologies had been received from Marie Hartley, Morgan Scott and Cllr John Williamson.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Matters arising from the last meeting were as follows:

- Pamela would look into the use of Mail Chimp as a way to communicating on fundraising events for the next meeting.
- Louise Scott had contacted the council for an update on the new secondary school building.
- Money had been transferred to the school for the cost of the Christmas parties. A discussion would be held at a future meeting on the possibility of Pinkie Parents assisting more in the purchase and wrapping of Christmas presents. **(Action: Clerk)**.
- An inventory of the playground equipment had taken place and new equipment had been purchased.
- Class rep info would be collated and put onto the school noticeboard.

3. School Building Plans

3.1 This would be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Head Teacher's Report

4.1. Mrs Bonnar updated the meeting on a number of issues. A newsletter would soon be issued providing information on important dates coming up and there would also be a section for Pinkie Parents.

4.2 Pupils had been assessed in Read Write Inc before the Christmas break which had provided good results and pupils making good progress.

4.3 A new format for forward planning had been put in place for all teachers with Mrs Bonnar looking at plans and good classroom practice being shared.

4.4 As discussed at the last meeting Pupil Equity Funding cannot be moved forward into the new financial year so Mrs Bonnar was considering how this fitted into the wider school budget. Longleat interviews for the new Deputy Head had been held with final interviews due to be held on 16 January. On that basis it had been decided to extend Mrs Snowden's temp DHT post to continue to provide support for learning support at that level.

4.5 Occupational Therapy had been involved with the school in the development of sensory circuits, following the generous donation from the Pinkie Farm Shop. This resource could be adapted and changed to suit a pupil's needs and staff would be

trained in the use of the equipment, as well as the use of 'Fabulous Fingers' – a fine motor skills initiative.

4.6 A new support staff meeting was now being held fortnightly, as well as pupil assemblies being split into lower and upper school. This provided a better way to communicate with pupils.

4.7 New playground equipment had been purchased and the school were also looking at the possibility of more permanent play structures within the playground and were checking with the council on what options were available.

4.8 The school had been asked to present at a primary teachers conference in February on its health and wellbeing work.

4.9 Then school was introducing 'Big Writing' – which would provide a consistent approach to writing skills, bringing together shared classroom practice and recognised pupil's needs. New Read Write Inc resources had also been purchased.

4.10 Classes continued to receive specific science lessons with Mr Hogben and new equipment also purchased for the science lab. Some class teachers would also be upskilled on the science lessons so that they could provide classes where appropriate.

4.11 It was agreed that Pinkie15 was in need of a refresh, with the health and wellbeing curriculum being looked at as a whole. This would form part of the 'How Good is Our School' development time, with pupils being involved in its development as part of the School Improvement Plan.

4.12 Following the successful application last year for the Secret Garden, the school were considering whether to submit an application this year for Your Voice, Your Choice. Applications were due by 31 January.

4.13 Mrs Bonnar had met with the site director for the Edinburgh Marathon Festival to discuss the timeline for access to the school grounds for the event at the end of May. Information would be provided to parents and the wider community via notice boards at the school gates. Mrs Bonnar would look further into the issue of the use of school grounds during the school day and who controlled this. (**Action: Mrs Bonnar**).

4.14 Work on painting designs in the playground would commence soon. Discussions had taken place with the council and Mrs Bonnar and Becca would identify a suitable area for painting and a date would be set. Volunteers were in place and the school let would be gained once a date was set. (**Action: Becca**).

4.15 Mrs Bonnar provided an update on staff news. Final interviews for the Deputy Head Teacher post would be taking place this week, with house captains having a role in the process. Two new additional needs assistants, Ms Tallac and Ms Baird, had been recruited. Mrs Denham had given birth to a baby boy, Oscar on 2 January – with a teacher being appointed to cover her maternity leave. Ms Wood's maternity leave would commence on 18 March and Mrs Bonnar was liaising with the council

about the cover arrangements. The PE specialist Mr Barrie had been offered a full time post at his secondary school so would soon be leaving Pinkie. Ms Watson was leaving to take a post in an early years centre in Edinburgh. Her post has been advertised.

4.16 Mrs Bonnar was attending the cluster head teachers meeting on 15 January at which the temporary Quality Improvement Officer would be attending.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Suzanne provided an update on the bank account, which currently had a balance of £4,926.86 with most of our yearly commitments already paid.

5.2 The final cost for the P7 hoodies was to be confirmed and this would be paid.

5.3 Mrs Bonnar had been in touch with the council regarding the purchase of tablets for pupils. Once final costs were known a funding request would be submitted.

6. Fundraising Update

6.1 Suzanne provided an update on the fundraising, with the festive tea towels making a profit of £853.80. Consideration would be given on how the process would work next year, or if indeed other products could be available.

6.2 A fundraising meeting would be held on 25 January to discuss our next fundraising events including the EMF stall and summer fayre.

6.3 Pamela was looking ahead at the possibility of holding a craft event day around Easter time. Volunteers would be sought.

7. Cost of School Day Toolkit

7.1 Louise provided an overview of the toolkit, which had been provided by the council and parent councils being asked how to work with their schools at looking at the cost of the school day and feedback to the council.

7.2 It was agreed that, although the school and Pinkie Parents do some work around reducing the cost of the school day, more could be done to assist parents.

7.3 There was also a discussion around funding streams which could be available to Pinkie Parents, and the possibility of looking into charity status.

7.4 It was agreed that a subgroup to look at the cost of the school day would be put together to work with the school at looking at this important issue. Louise would email volunteers to start the process. **(Action: Clerk).**

7.5 Louise would try and find out which, if any, parent councils had become official charities and the council's view on this. **(Action: Clerk)**.

7.6 Pamela and Becca would look into charitable status and what work was involved for further discussion at the AGM in April. **(Action: Pamela and Becca)**.

8. Provision of Childcare – Parent Participation

8.1 Suzanne provided a summary of the guidance which had been issued by the Council on looking into whether childcare provision should be considered and provided, if there is a need, to allow parents to attend parent council meetings. The guidance stated that any costs would have to be met from the parent council's budget (with voluntary donations being an option).

8.2 There was discussion around the different ways in which Pinkie Parents try to engage with parents, including holding fundraising meetings being held during the school day and younger children allowed to be present, as well as information coffee mornings which were held in the past.

8.3 It was agreed that the informal coffee mornings would again take place as a way to provide feedback on meetings to parents in an informal setting. **(Action: Suzanne)**. It was also agreed that a post would be placed on our Facebook page to gauge interest in whether childcare was required. **(Action: Clerk)**.

9. School Improvement Plan

9.1 Following discussion at the last meeting it was agreed that as well as a subgroup working with the school on the School Improvement Plan, it would also look at parental engagement as a whole. Louise would email the volunteers so that a meeting could be arranged. **(Action: Clerk)**.

9.2 There was further discussion on the background to the plan – with projected targets (based on current pupils at P1, P4 and P7) to be submitted to the council. These were also discussed in great detail with staff.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 There was discussion around the communication links within the nursery, and how information on what was going on in the nursery was passed to parents. Mrs Gordon would raise this with nursery staff with a view to more Facebook posts being made as one way to communicate with parents. **(Action: Mrs Gordon)**.