



**PINKIE PARENTS
MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7PM
PINKIE ST PETERS SCHOOL**

Present: Suzanne Douglas (Chair)
Pamela Grant (Depute Chair)
Suzanne Gunn (Treasurer)
Stephanie Ng (Clerk)
Jackson Ng
Wendy Barber
Heather Young
Clare Morley
Suzanne Gilhooley
Gaynor Ross
Sharon Moore
Cllr Andy Forrest

Staff in Attendance: Colette Bonnar (Head Teacher)
Helen Gordon (Depute Head Teacher)

Apologies: Joanne Friend
Louise Scott
Cllr Katie Mackie
Cllr John Williamson
Cllr Stuart Currie

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Suzanne welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies above, were noted.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 The money raised by the P3's at their Christmas fair was banked, and so Mrs Dixon has put in a funding request for it. Pinkie Parents are still unsure of what the money will be spent on, and so Colette will check with Mrs Dixon. **(Action: Colette)**

2.2 The gazebo previously used for the Edinburgh Marathon stall was deemed unsafe due to the high winds last year, so Pinkie Parents are looking at options for this year. Suzanne Douglas will get in touch with Cllr Andy Forrest to discuss further. **(Action: Suzanne)**.

3. Head Teacher's Report

3.1 Mrs Bonnar provided her report and updated the meeting on a number of issues.

Attainment

3.2 Nick Trussler, the QIO, will be returning to the school the week after next to do classroom observations in a P3 and P7 class.

3.3 As part of the self improving schools group, Colette will need to submit a standard quality report.

3.4 Amanda Hamilton, who is the attainment advisor for East Lothian, will be coming back into the school to meet with Mrs Snowdon. She will be looking at the equity fund and how it is being spent.

3.5 The p1's have started doing sign-along signs once a week and these are shown on Twitter.

Behaviour, Improving Relationships and Promoting a Positive Ethos

3.6 Sarah Baratt, the Educational Psychologist, came into the school to do nurture training with all the staff. This was a really positive meeting and she is getting to know the staff well. She will be returning on the 25th of February.

3.7 Certificates are issued to children who have gone above and beyond, and the school makes sure that everyone is being recognised for their contributions.

3.8 The behaviour blue print was recently shared with parents and we will be looking at it again in the coming months to make sure it is still fit for purpose and fits

in with what the school does. Parents will be involved and encouraged to give feedback.

Curriculum

3.9 There has been some great feedback for the Open Learning Sessions, and these have become an established part of Pinkie.

3.10 Big Writing has really helped improve the writing attainment throughout the school. A training session on this was done with Miss Palmer, and the leadership team will look into these lessons to make sure they are consistent throughout the whole school.

World Book Day

3.11 Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on Thursday 5th March to celebrate World Book Day. Children are encouraged to make their own costumes rather than buying them, and they also have the option to dress in their pyjamas and to bring their favourite book and teddy to school. Pinkie Parents will also organise a “costume swap shop” in the reception area to encourage reuse of costumes and therefore cutting costs.

Newsletter

3.12 The newsletter has recently been sent out, with a paper version available soon. It was noted that the newsletter doesn't show correctly and it will therefore be sent as a PDF document in the future. It was also noted that the end of term is Friday 3rd April, and not the 2nd as it says in the newsletter.

Professional Learning

3.13 First Aid training and “Stress Challenges Behaviour” training has been undertaken by staff. Training is ongoing throughout the school, from nursery up to P7.

3.14 Colette has undertaken Excellence in Headship Training by Education Scotland.

Playground Development

3.15 Susan Humble, the Loose Parts Play Specialist, has been coming into the school for the last 3 weeks to do training with the support staff. This training will then be extended to the class teachers. This is to ensure that the loose parts play is done correctly by students, teachers and parents.

3.16 Storage will also be looked at with the possibility of sharing the rent of the outside container with the after school club.

3.17 A joiner will be coming in to ensure that all the play equipment for loose parts play is set up properly and safely.

3.18 The cheque from Pinkie Parents, which is approximately £800, will go towards the storage container and the paint for the playground which has been designed by the children.

ASN Auxiliaries

3.19 A basketball club has been set up for lunch times on Mondays and Wednesdays and is run by the ASN auxiliaries.

3.20 The ASN auxiliaries are trialling a 'quiet club' which will take place at break times.

Business Continuity Planning

3.21 A plan needs to be in place incase something happens to the school building, and so if the school building were to fall down we would move to Musselburgh Grammar school, if their school building was still intact.

3.22 If there are extremely bad weather conditions then the decision with what happens will be down to East Lothian Council, and not the school.

School Handbook

3.23 The school handbook is currently being updated, and more recent photos are being added. This will be ready soon.

School Community

3.24 Mrs Bonnar, as the head teacher representative for East Lothian, will be attending an event at The Brunton on Total Place Musselburgh.

Resources

3.25 As we come to the end of the current financial year, the school is in a good financial position.

3.26 The school have been busy managing resources, particularly with maths where the old things have been cleared out and it has all been reorganised.

Library

3.27 A huge thank you was said to all the hard working volunteers who have helped organise and sort out the library recently.

3.28 The library could possibly need some funding to help with the cost of shelves and soft furnishings like bean bags and rugs.

3.29 A Junior Leadership Team is being set up, and they could help with the design of the library, and look into how to get the most out of it.

3.30 Volunteers are still needed to help out with the library and Suzanne Douglas will email Mrs Dixon to ask about how best to man it. **(Action: Suzanne)**

3.31 Concerns were expressed about the Parent Council funding projects within the school which we then ceased to hear about, the science lab being one of them.

3.31a Mrs Bonnar assured us the science lab was still running. After Mr Hogban left, the leadership of the science lab was taken over by Mrs Samson and Miss Christie. Mrs Bonnar will check with them how it is going, with the option to maybe have it open on show at a parents evening. **(Action: Colette)**

Staffing

3.32 Kasia, from the nursery, commences her maternity leave in March. Interviews have taken place for a new Senior Early Years Practitioner.

3.33 Mrs Wilson and Mrs Davidson will commence their maternity leave after the summer holidays.

Expressive Arts

3.34 The ASN auxiliary which helps oversee the expressive arts is off sick at the moment, and she can't be covered as she also has the title of "Youth Worker" and the position needs very specific roles to be covered. It is not certain when they will start up again. The teachers which come in to teach the dance and drama are free-lance and likely to now be employed elsewhere, and so we may not be able to get them again.

3.35 Some of the sessions were not well attended, and had to be condensed with other classes. The data needs to be looked at over the past year to see if the clubs are targeting the specific pupils it intended, although they are open for all. It was suggested that they are not advertised enough and to maybe promote them more by having performances at Pinkie Sessions.

3.36 Concerns were expressed about the lack of discipline in the clubs and choir with children becoming disruptive, and that parents were maybe using them as a child-care service instead of the child wishing to be there.

4. Playground Supervision

4.1 The feedback from parents is that there is a lack of supervision in the playground at lunch and break times with bad language, footballs in faces and children not respecting each other etc. There were also concerns of the older children targeting the younger children.

4.2 Mrs Bonnar assured us that there are plenty of staff outside each lunch and break time, and they try to encourage the children to play games etc, but they can be in and out a lot with children who hurt themselves.

4.3 Whatever is happening beneath the undesirable behaviour needs to be addressed, and brought back to the class teacher for consequences to take place.

4.4 The children can also attend the basketball clubs happening Mondays and Wednesdays, go to the secret garden or nurture rooms if they wanted.

4.5 At the moment, P3-P6 are on the astro, P1-P2 on the concrete (nearest dining hall and toilets) and P7 on the grass with the football pitch. However, fluidity goes on amongst the “zones”. There is also the possibility of setting up “ball zones” to try and maintain the ball games into certain areas only.

4.6 Loose Parts Play will be set up within a month or so and will give the children something else to do. This will be contained to the concrete area. Susan Humble, the Loose parts Play Specialist, will be coming into the school soon to make sure it is properly implemented.

5. Parking

5.1 It was noted that the parking was particularly bad on Park Lane with parents/ carers parking on grass verges and not being mindful of others.

5.2 A traffic warden had been appointed, but he wasn't taking the necessary action.

5.3 Awareness needs to be raised and parents need to be reminded about the dangers.

5.4 Mrs Bonnar will get the JRSO involved (**Action: Colette**), and think about starting a campaign. The children will be asked for their ideas and input.

6. Treasurer's Update

6.1 The opening balance is £5,418.64

6.2 £745.03 has gone to the Playground Group for work on the playground.

6.3 £54.04 has come in from Easyfundraising

6.3a After a campaign on Facebook, there are 63 parents who are registered with Easyfundraising, but there are only approximately 20 parents who actively use it. Money raised through this site comes to Pinkie Parents quarterly.

6.4 The closing balance is £4,727.65

7. Fundraising Update

7.1 A fundraising meeting was held on 21st February but only two people showed up which may have been due to the short notice. However, Friday mornings still seem to be the best day for the fundraising meetings.

7.2 There are two events planned: The Marathon Stall and the Summer Fair.

7.3 Suzanne is taking a step back and Pamela Grant is taking ownership of these events.

7.4 More volunteers are desperately needed to support Pinkie Parents with these events, which raises money for the children. Leaflets will possibly be going home in school bags asking for volunteers, as well on Facebook. The events can be split down into tasks beforehand, to make it easier for parents to offer their time/support.

7.5 A clearer understanding needs to take place on what the money raised is spent on.

7.6 Mrs Bonnar will ask Miss Palmer for the possible involvement of the P6 and P7 children, maybe in the running of stalls at the Summer Fair and asking the choir to perform. (**Action: Colette**)

8. PEF/SIP Subgroup Update

8.1 Emails will be sent to parents to arrange meetings and get the groups back up and running. (**Action: Pamela**).

8.2 Still keep on agenda.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 The next meeting, which is the AGM, will take place on the 27th April.

9.2 The meeting will be chaired by Colette Bonnar, with the Chair and Treasurer each giving their reports.

9.3 Suzanne Douglas will step down from being chair, as her two years are up.

9.4 The roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer will need to be voted in. If interested in any of these roles, please get in contact with Suzanne. Ideally you will have been part of Pinkie Parents for 1 year as it is important to know what is going on.