



**PINKIE PARENTS
MONDAY, 30 August 2021 AT 7 PM
VIA SKYPE**

Present:

Pamela Grant (Chair)
Gaynor Ross (Vice Chair)
Wendy Barber (Treasurer)
Stephanie Ng (Clerk)
Angela Curran
Clare Morley
Rebbekah Dorrان
Suzanne Douglas
Joanne Friend
Doug Broadley
Cllr Stuart Currie
Cllr Andy Forrest

Staff in Attendance:

Colette Bonnar (Head Teacher)
Scarlett Palmer (Depute Head Teacher)

Apologies:

Kirsty Clark

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting

2.1 It is still a work in progress to increase the amount of attendees to Pinkie Parents meetings. Pamela and Gaynor will discuss the best ways to take this forward and spread the word around more, particularly with the new P1 parents. **(Action: Pamela and Gaynor.)**

2.2 The matters arising regarding the fundraising and SIP/PEF groups will be addressed under their agenda headings.

3. Head Teacher's Report

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

COVID-19 Update

3.2 The school will always give out as much information as possible regarding covid, inline with what the local authority is asking the school to share.

3.3 A letter was sent out after Pinkie received confirmation of their first COVID-19 case linked to the school, and some parents were concerned as they hadn't heard anything further after there were more linked cases. This was because it was found parents were becoming overwhelmed in the past with the amount of COVID-19 messages, but a letter was sent to the parents/carers of the class affected.

3.4 Last week was particularly challenging, staffing wise, and the school is continuing to feel that. They are managing as best as they can, and trying to minimise any disruption. Mrs Colette Bonnar expressed her thanks to everyone for their patience.

3.5 Under the new COVID-19 guidance "Bubbles" have gone which is great, and whole classes no longer need to self-isolate. However, the school can't become too complacent.

3.6 The dining hall will open again on Monday 6th September. The school will do lots of learning around it and make it a lovely place to be, this is especially important for those in P1 and P2 who have never been in it.

Nursery and Building Work

3.7 The building of the new nursery has been postponed. Work was supposed to start at the end of the summer holidays. There is no further update at this time or any timescale of when the building work might start.

3.8 Some of the windows were meant to be replaced, and the nursery classrooms changed. Both of these have been put on hold, and there is no further information about when it is going to happen. Replacing the windows will be budget dependent.

3.9 Some of the toilets have been painted so are looking in much better condition.

Learning and Teaching

3.10 The school has only been back two weeks and the main thing is to ensure continuity in everything.

3.11 All the staff, including support staff had a good in-service time together where they did some great planning.

3.12 The staff all looked at the SIP (School Improvement Plan), and a draft of this has gone to Nick Trussler, who is the School Improvement Officer. Mrs Colette Bonnar will meet with him soon for feedback on the SIP and this will then be shared with parents and carers. Mrs Colette Bonnar suggested that Pinkie Parents helped to make a “parent friendly” version of the SIP once it has been finalised.

3.13 “Meet the teacher” will be starting this week via Googlemeet. Some parents reported having trouble getting their googlemeet link to work, and others with more than one child in the school said the email they received didn’t say which link went with which class. Miss Scarlett Palmer apologised for this and said the emails should have clearly stated which link goes with what class, and will make sure in future that this will happen. Mrs Colette Bonnar and Miss Scarlett Palmer will look into this tomorrow. (**Action: Colette and Scarlett**)

3.14 There has been an issue with emails coming through from partner nurseries and transferring them over from SEEMIS. A lot of time is being taken going through all of them to try and sort this. This could account for any P1 parents, or new parents to the school having trouble getting the googlemeet link to work, or not receiving a link at all.

3.15 P5 was supposed to start swimming lessons last week but this has been postponed due to staff absence. All parents of those in P5 should receive a message about this soon.

Playground

3.16 The children are allowed to mix more on the playground now and have been enjoying things like loose parts and the parachutes.

3.17 As the school is now sharing lots of equipment it was suggested that Pinkie Parents could consider fundraising to help the school purchase some wooden carts to help with the transporting of the equipment.

3.18 As there are no longer “bubbles” in the playground Pinkie seems much more “school-like”, which is lovely to see.

Staffing

3.19 The school has new senior facilities officers (janitors) which have fitted in well with the team.

3.20 There are two new probationer teachers in the school.

3.21 An advert has gone out for Support Workers to join the nursery as it has now increased to 1140 hours.

3.22 Any staff absence is communicated as best as possible to the affected classes only.

Questions

3.23 It was asked why Mrs Dixon who was supposed to go into a nurturing role this year has returned as a class teacher.

3.23a Three probationers were due to start at the school, but in the end only two came which meant that Mrs Dixon became a class teacher again. This meant some staff were juggled around and Mrs Chisholm has taken on a different role. The school will look into recruiting others.

3.24 Some parents have had concerns about their children coming home with white paint on their clothes which doesn't come off and wondering where it came from.

3.24a There are no “bubbles” on the playground any more, but there are still zones, some of which are on the grass. The paint is coming from one of the rugby pitches which happened to be newly painted right at the beginning of term. Mrs Colette Bonnar will look into doing something about it (e.g. moving the children off the grass for a while), if this is affecting lots of people.

3.25 It was asked whether it was still possible for parents to feed into the SIP.

3.25a Mrs Colette Bonnar agreed that it was and that she will try and get a date to have parental feedback via a googlemeet. She will also explain what the school is focussing on and why. **(Action: Colette)**

3.26 Some parents were wondering how long the teacher from p5/6 would be absent for.

3.26a No time scale has been given and any news will be communicated with the parents of that class. As it stands, Miss Thomson will be the teacher for rest of this week and Miss Scarlett Palmer meets regularly with her.

4. School Uniform

4.1 There have been issues with receiving school uniform orders from Patricia Bewsey Designs this year, with some parents/carers only getting half their order or turning up to collect it to find it isn't there at all. It was noted that there has been a lack of communication from Patricia to the parents/carers.

4.2 Despite having supply issues, Patricia continued to take orders which couldn't be fulfilled and doesn't like to use a "sold out option" as she isn't sure exactly when items will come in.

4.3 It was questioned whether it is possible to change the school supplier to someone more efficient, maybe to one that delivers to the parents/carers house. It was noted, however, that the school uniform supplier Thompsons that were used in the past, also had communication and delivery issues.

4.3 Mrs Colette Bonnar was aware that there was a supply issue and mentioned that Patricia has been supplying the uniform for a number of years and this is the first time there have been complaints about her. In the past she has always been great, and has kept the prices the same for the past 8 years. However, Mrs Colette Bonnar is happy to see what else is out there.

4.4 Mrs Colette Bonnar will look into this to see who is the decision maker on who supplies the school uniform, and if it is possible to have a second supplier who will price match Patricia. **(Action: Colette)**

4.5 It was also noted that it looks like it was just specific sizes that had supply issues and that Patricia's online shop is now closed, meaning she is not taking any more orders.

5. Communication

5.1 The school makes sure they communicate as and when they need to and as quickly as possible.

5.2 The class teachers are supposed to do a tweet a day minimum, and this is in their working day agreement. This isn't the case at the moment with some classes, but this is due to new staff starting or having supply teachers.

5.3 There are currently 700 followers on the school twitter (@pinkieprimary).

5.4 It was noted that the school website is not up-to-date with information about staff and teachers. Miss Scarlett Palmer has apologised and will get it up-to-date as soon as possible. **(Action: Scarlett)**

6. Class Reps

6.1 Class reps have been used in the past to act as a conduit between parents/carers and the school. However, this gets more difficult as we go further up the school as children often walk to school themselves and the parents don't see each other as much.

6.2 The general consensus was that class reps have never really worked and people who were class reps have never been approached by another parent. It is much more likely for parents/carers to message the Pinkie Parents FB page or contact the school directly.

6.3 It was suggested to instead try and promote Pinkie Parents more and to let parents/carers know who the office bearers are by posting photos and names on the FB page, twitter and the website. Miss Scarlett Palmer is happy to help with this. **(Action: Scarlett)**

6.4 It was agreed to not have any class reps for the time being, but to instead look into making sure people know who the office bearers are by posting photos and contact details on twitter etc.

6.5 Mrs Colette Bonnar offered to speak to Bev Skirrow (who works for East Lothian Council as a schools business manager) and invite her to the next meeting to see if she can be of any help with promoting Pinkie Parents. Pamela Grant said she would first attend the upcoming "Role of a Chair" training to see if she can get any further ideas before looking into inviting Bev to come along.

7. School Library

7.1 Before COVID-19 happened, the library was under the care of Mrs Dixon and volunteers were going in to try and get the library up to scratch.

7.2 The library has been looked after by support staff, and it is in a nice state and starting to get used again.

7.3 Parents are not allowed in the school to volunteer with the library at the moment as they are not deemed essential visitors, but as soon as they are allowed in again the school would love volunteers.

7.4 It was suggested that the P7's could help out with the library and Mrs Colette Bonnar will raise this at the next staff meeting and with the P7 teachers. (**Action: Colette**)

8. Treasurer's Update

8.1 The opening balance is £3,069.55

8.2 £2.52 has come in as commission from "Screen and Shield".

8.3 The closing balance is £3,072.07

8.4 Annual commitments of P7 hoodies (£1,000), replacement of playground equipment (£500) and contributions to Christmas parties and gifts (£500) come to £1,700. This means the balance will drop to about £1,300.

8.5 Due to fundraising still not able to go ahead like normal, it was agreed to not offer the £100 funding to each class at the moment, but instead to just honour the annual commitments until fundraising can go ahead.

9. Spend for 2021/2022

9.1 This was covered in the treasurer's report.

10. Fundraising Update

Halloween disco

10.1 Parents/carers have been asking whether a Halloween disco can take place this year. Mrs Colette Bonnar said it isn't allowed as it is deemed "non-essential", but will let Pamela Grant know if this changes. Mrs Colette Bonnar went on to say that the school is only just looking into re-introducing mixed aged school assemblies.

Christmas Cards

10.2 The Christmas cards raised a decent amount of money last year, and Pinkie Parents are hoping to start organising it earlier this year, due to some issues they had last year. It would be good to start the art work for them mid to late September to ensure everything is sorted on time. Jenny Flanagan has very kindly offered to help with the Christmas cards again this year, as well as Clare Morley, but more help would be needed. Pamela Grant asked for anyone willing to help to message the Pinkie Parents FB page.

Stikin labels

10.3 The personalised name labelling company “stikins” will give the school/parent council up to 30% commission for items bought if Pinkie Parents were to set up an account with them. Pamela Grant will look into this more as a fundraising idea.

(Action: Pamela)

East Lothian Lottery

10.4 It was mentioned that some parent councils take part in the East Lothian Lottery, as well as the Out of School Club and First Step nursery. This has been looked into in the past but then stopped as it felt like so many other people nearby were doing it. However, it was agreed to try it out and see how it goes as many people would be willing to take part as they knew they would be helping to fundraise for the school. Pamela Grant will look into this. **(Action: Pamela)**

Funding from Tesco / The Co-op

10.5 Tesco's offer funding to local companies, and Suzanne Douglas said she has looked into this in the past and the waiting list was about 18 months long and if Pinkie Parents applied for it they would have to do it as soon as possible. It was also noted that Pinkie Parents would have to be very specific in what they were asking funding for.

The Co-op offers a scheme where a certain amount of money is donated to a local community group with every swipe of a membership card. Pamela Grant will look into this more. **(Action: Pamela Grant)**

Easyfundraising

10.6 Pamela Grant will advertise the easyfundraising app on the Pinkie Parents FB page so new parents are aware of it, especially with the lead up to Christmas. Miss Scarlett Palmer will also do a tweet to advertise it on the P1 twitter feed. **(Action: Pamela and Scarlett)**

11. SIP and PEF Subgroup Update

11.1 The SIP and PEF subgroups are non-existent at the moment but Pamela Grant and Mrs Colette Bonnar will arrange a date to talk about the SIP.

12. Any Other Business?

P7 Trip to Benmore

12.1 Mrs Colette Bonnar confirmed that the P7 trip to Benmore will not be able to go ahead, and this is down to an East Lothian Council decision. The children will instead do other activities and Miss Scarlett Palmer is working with the P7 teachers on this. It was stated that this needs to be clearly communicated to the P7's as some of them have been asking about it.

P7 Fundraising

12.2 Joanne Friend will email Miss Scarlett Palmer to try and get a start on the P7 fundraising for this year. **(Action: Joanne)**

Regarding the 2021 leavers: there was less fundraising and all the money raised was spent, so no refunds need to be issued.

P7 leavers 2020 refund

12.3 Some of the P7 leavers from 2020 have still not received the local gift vouchers which they asked for. Mrs Colette Bonnar will look into this tomorrow. **(Action: Colette)**

P7 Hoodies

12.4 The P7 hoodie order form should hopefully go out towards the end of this week, and this year there is an offer of a red or grey hoodie. There will be an option on the form to order extra, and hopefully if this is done in bulk it will bring the price down a bit. The hoodies will have "Leavers 22" on the back and the child's name on the arm. This is done incase any new children join P7 during the year, and we don't want them feeling left out as their name isn't included on the back.

13. Next Meeting Date

13.1 The next meeting date will be Tuesday 12th October.

