



**PINKIE PARENTS
MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2021 AT 7 PM
VIA SKYPE**

- Present:** Pamela Grant (Chair)
Gaynor Ross (Vice Chair)
Stephanie Ng (Clerk)
Sarah Ward
Suzanne Falconer
Stephen Dishon
Carol Brown
Yvonne Stevenson
Cllr Andy Forrest
Cllr Katie Mackie
- Staff in Attendance:** Colette Bonnar (Head Teacher)
Rachel Snowdon (Depute Head Teacher)
Victoria Thomson (P5/6 Teacher)
- Pupils in Attendance:** EC (P6a)
JG (P5/6)
MR (P4a)
- Apologies:** Wendy Barber (Treasurer)
Suzanne Douglas
Joanne Friend
Angela Curran
Michael McGavigan
Cllr Stuart Currie
Cllr John Williamson

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 Due to low attendance at the last Pinkie Parents meeting (which was held on a Tuesday), and no councillors able to attend due to being otherwise engaged, Stephanie emailed the councillors to see which day of the week was best for them to attend. They replied saying their meetings were random and no day was better than any other. However the general consensus from parent members is that it is better to have all meetings on a Monday evening. Therefore, all dates for the rest of the 2021/2022 school year will move back to Mondays and Stephanie will email these dates out. Fingers crossed that from January we will be allowed to have meetings inside the school again. **(Action: Stephanie)**

2.2 Pamela Grant will ask Patricia Bewsey if her uniform shop will reopen, and also if she has a stock of ties she would be willing to sell to other uniform companies. Also, to maybe look around for other uniform companies. **(Action: Pamela)**

2.3 Some of the school website has been updated, but there is still more to be done, especially on the individual classes section. However, as there are regular class tweets on the school Twitter, this is not a priority and will be done in due course.

2.4 Applications to apply for the CO-OP scheme has closed until Spring 2022. Pamela Grant will look into it then.

2.5 The easyfundraising app still needs to be advertised on the Pinkie St Peter's P1 twitter feed.

2.6 Pamela spoke to Rebecca Richmond about designing a new Pinkie Parents logo and she is very happy to get involved. This will be revisited in the new year and prospective logos will be circulated amongst the parent council for voting and opinions. **(Action: Pamela and Rebecca)**

2.7 As the pantomime at the Brunton is performing live this year there is not the option to watch it online like last year. The option was given to re-watch last year's performance but the teachers and pupils decided not to.

3. SIP - Pupil Leadership (Miss Thomson and pupils)

3.1 Miss Victoria Thomson introduced herself and described her role within the Pupil Leadership. Miss Thomson is part of a working party with six other teachers who are looking to develop a range of leadership groups across the school. These

groups include Eco Warriors, Active Leaders, Digital Ninjas, Junior Leadership Team plus more.

3.2 Three children who are involved with the pupil leadership groups came to the meeting to talk about what they have been doing.

3.3 EC from P6 spoke about how she wrote a letter to the Parent Council to thank them for the Halloween goody bags and to say how happy they all were to receive them. She went to say that she has met twice with her Pupil Leadership group to speak about the SIP (School Improvement Plan), and how it is such a good opportunity for her to share opinions and gain confidence. She also really enjoys meeting people in different years and being part of a team.

3.4 JG from P5/6 is part of the Active Leaders and is trained by Anna Potter (who leads Active Schools). She spoke about how she leads a lunch club for the P3's with HR and has had great attendance from them. Lots of P3s join in and play fun games such as rounders and catch the flag. She likes it as she gets to meet new children and learn new names. She feels more confident and has learnt important skills such as leadership skills, PE skills and teaching skills. JG says it is very fun and she feels very proud of herself.

3.5 MR from P4 is an Eco Champion and looks into how to make the school more eco friendly by looking at how water, plastic and electricity are used. The Eco Champions made a board of what they have been doing and have displayed this near the PE hall. She said she has gained skills in leadership and has also gained confidence. Miss Thomson is the leader of the eco group and went on to say that the children have had loads of ideas about recycling, for example.

3.6 Mrs Colette Bonnar expressed her thanks to the three children who joined the meeting to share about they do within the groups they are involved in, and also to the teachers who run them. She went on to say that she had received an email from Anna Potter to say how proud and happy she is of the children she has worked with from Pinkie.

3.7 Two other children who are part of the Pupil Leadership groups submitted quotes:

“So fun to get to know the little ones, I am quite shy and I am now more confident” - HR (P5/6)

“I joined to gain independence and maturity. I like working as a team and I wanted to be proud of myself” - F (P7)

3.8 The aims of the Pupil Leadership groups are to improve opportunities for wider learning, to build self-esteem and to listen to the pupil voices. These groups give the children opportunities to gain ownership of their learning and to gain skills in leadership, confidence and resilience.

3.9 When the groups were first started up the children were asked on a scale of 1-10 how confident they were in leading groups. All the children rated themselves a 5 or above and this question will be asked again in June to see how it has grown.

3.10 Anna Potter, from Active Schools, initially trained the Active Leaders in a 6 week program but she will continue to train children in P5 and p6.

3.11 Miss Thomson briefly described three of the groups which are part of the Pupil Leadership:

Junior Leadership Team - This group has someone in it from each year group, and this ensures that the little ones will have their voice heard as well. Mrs Dixon has created a child friendly SIP and the group has looked through this together and offered their opinions.

Eco Champions - The aim from this group is to have a robust recycling system. The group have contacted the council as they are looking for a better recycling system throughout the school.

Digital Ninjas - The aim of this group is to improve IT skills throughout the school and the children in this group will train others and will up-level and improve their own skills in the process.

3.12 Some of the parents who have children in P3 commented on how much their children are enjoying the active lunch club run by Active Leaders.

3.13 There was an East Lothian wide decision to stop giving out plastic water bottles with the Friday lunches, and the council are working towards getting rid of the cellophane bags as well. Miss Thomson will chat about this with her Eco Warrior group.

3.14 Mrs Colette Bonnar again thanked Miss Thomson and the pupils for coming to the meeting to share and mentioned how great it was for the children to take up leadership positions. Miss Victoria Thomson and the three pupils (EC, JG and MR) left the meeting at this point, as they had given their update.

4. Head Teacher's Report

4.1 Before Mrs Colette Bonnar gave her report she mentioned how nice it was to hear from the children and Miss Thomson. It is important to share ideas and to talk about what is going on at Pinkie with the Parent Council so they can work together.

Christmas

4.2 A big thank you to Andy Forrest for the Christmas trees which are now in the gym hall. They will be enjoyed by the children who have their Christmas parties there. The House Captains decorated the trees, and one of the leadership groups will send a thank you letter to Andy.

4.3 Christmas parties will be happening both in the classrooms and the gym hall this year.

4.4 The House Captains will put out a Christmas flyer to let people know what is going on.

4.5 As Santa can't come to the school this year he will send a video message for the children.

4.6 The school and nursery enjoyed Christmas lunch again this year. The P7's ordered Santa hats for themselves and helped out in the dinner hall. There was background music on and a very nice atmosphere. Every child got a cracker, and people sat with the younger children and read out the jokes.

Covid Update

4.7 Nothing has changed regarding risk assessments within the school. The children are mixing outside, but not so much inside.

4.8 Teachers are wearing face coverings and doing things remotely if needed.

4.9 There has been no remote learning or classes closed as all classes have been covered, but it has been very challenging staffing wise. The school, however has contingency plans in place if needed.

Attainment

4.10 Mrs Colette Bonnar as well as the depute head teachers had a very positive meeting with the QIO Nick Trussler about attainment.

4.11 The attainment data from SEEMIS was looked at, as well as meeting and speaking to teachers about the impact COVID had on learning. Miss Palmer will do a numeracy group with children who are not where they should be, and Mrs Gordon will be helping children with writing.

4.12 The school is not losing sight of where they need to be and Nick was really impressed with the plan and how well the Senior Leadership Team are working towards it.

Nursery

4.13 The children were sent home and nursery was closed from about 4pm on Tuesday 7th December due to no heating. Mrs Colette Bonnar informed the Education Department to let them know. Someone will come in to look at it first thing on the 8th December, but it is likely the nursery will be closed that day as well.

4.14 The windows still need to be replaced, and this is budget dependent. Colette will ask about this on Thursday 9th Dec, as well as asking when work on the new nursery building will begin and get back to Pinkie Parents with dates. **(Action: Colette)**

Staffing

4.15 Mr Shields is taking a career break and will be going over to USA for two years. He may or may not come back to Pinkie, and that decision will be up to East Lothian Council. Although it is sad he is going, it is a big opportunity for him. There is an advert on myjobscotland and the school will start interviewing next week for his replacement. Hopefully there will be someone to start in January, and if not the school has a contingency plan in place.

4.16 Miss Victoria Thomson who teaches P5/6 will be staying on at the school until the end of the 2021/2022 session.

4.17 The nursery is made up of Early Years Practitioners and Senior Early Years Practitioners, and Kasia who is a SEYP has left to go to another nursery setting. Naghmana, who used to teach at the nursery has returned in her place.

4.18 Some of the nurseries in East Lothian have had staffing issues, for example in Loretto, and some of the EYPs from Pinkie went to help out and support their colleagues.

4.19 Lynne has started at the school to support at lunch times within the dinner hall.

Learning and Teaching

4.20 There have been a couple of curricular visits, including a P3 trip to the National Museum.

4.21 Some children in P5 are doing swimming but some are not, and the reasons for this will be shared with those affected.

Questions

4.21 It was mentioned that the P6s in the composite class don't have buddies, whereas the other P6s do. Mrs Colette Bonnar doesn't know the reason for this and will look into it. **(Action: Colette)**

4.22 Parents are keen to know what is happening with the P7 fundraising. A letter was sent from Mr Kelly, Miss Wood and Mrs Davidson to explain what is happening and the P7s can also write a letter to say what they are planning.

4.23 It was asked whether it was worth for following year groups to start saving up for the P7 trip, and Mrs Bonnar said she would ask for advice from the central team. **(Action: Colette)**

5. Treasurer's Update

5.1 The treasurer's update was sent by email on 2nd December 2021 from Wendy and read out by Gaynor at the meeting.

5.2 The opening bank balance is 3,072.02

5.3 The Income is as follows:
£86.50 from East Lothian Community Lottery
£244.37 from the Halloween fundraiser
£20.67 from Easy Fundraising
£471.75 from the P7 hoodies income

5.4 The expenditure is as follows:
£190.26 on Halloween goody bags
£1,229.10 on P7 hoodies
£479.00 on books for Christmas presents

5.5 This leaves the bank balance at £1,977.

5.6 £563 is still to come in from the Christmas cards, but Pinkie Parents is slowly running out of funds.

5.7 Mrs Colette Bonnar said a huge thank you for the P7 hoodies and mentioned how chuffed all the P7s were to receive them. She also mentioned how nice it was to have the option of grey for a change.

6. Fundraising Update

6.1 The Halloween Dress up day received £224 in donations. However, Pinkie Parents spent £190.26 on the treat bags which meant there was only a very small profit. Pamela made it clear that Pinkie Parents didn't do this for profit, but for a treat for the children.

6.2 £563 was made from selling the Christmas cards and gifts, this covers the cost of the Christmas books given out to the children (which cost £479). It was noted that last year Pinkie Parents made £656 selling Christmas cards and gifts. The Christmas gifts of books will be handed into the school tomorrow for P3 and the rest on Friday to be given out at the Christmas parties.

6.3 The cinema screening of Elf at the Fraser Centre only sold 59 tickets out of 80 which is a bit disappointing. The screening of Home Alone which is showing on the 11th December has so far only sold 32 tickets and Pinkie Parents would be lucky if they broke even. However, the Fraser centre has advertised it and as it is the same day as their Christmas Fair there is every hope numbers will increase.

6.4 Easyfundraising and East Lothian Lottery is still ticking over, but if anyone has any ideas on how to fundraise then please share with Pamela Grant. Nothing has yet been planned for next year.

6.5 It was suggested to hold events, such as a Halloween disco, off site but this can raise other problems such as the cost and size of the venue. Volunteers are very hard to come by, even though it has been said many times that the children won't receive P7 hoodies or Christmas gifts if there are no fundraising events. Andy Forrest suggested looking into the MECA building as their rules are slightly different. Pamela Grant will look into this and get back to Andy. **(Action: Pamela)**

7. Next Meeting Date

7.1 The next meeting will take place on Monday 24th January, via Skype.

7.2 The dates for the rest of meetings will be changed back to Mondays, and Stephanie will email these dates out. **(Action: Stephanie)**

7.3 The dates for the rest of the 2021/2022 session were decided via text messages on the 11th January and are as follows:

- Monday 24th January
- Monday 7th March
- Monday 25th April (AGM)

