

King's Park Primary School
Parent Council Zoom Meeting
Minutes 31st March 2021

Present: Emily Cairns, Louise Duff, Karlyn Durrant (Secretary); Aoibhe O'Callaghan (Chair); Zoe Orr (Deputy Head); Robbie Pearson; Alex Redford; Leila Raeburn; Laurinda Renton (Headteacher);

Apologies: Teresa Doherty, Barbara O'Laughlin, John Hackett, Laurent Yahi, Diana Challands.

Actions from previous meeting:

PTA Update:

New parents attended the PTA monthly zoom meeting last night.

The PTA are awaiting further instruction from the school with regards to the outdoor learning shelter. Due to there now being additional funds there will be enough money for 2 shelters to be erected.

The plan for the summer term was discussed. There are a couple of events that would help with fundraising.

The future of the PTA is unknown due to the lack of interest/participation from the parent body.

Barbara has decided to stay on within the PTA for the coming year.

Discussion was had around having a concentrated campaign, the school app could be used.

As a way of wishing all the children a Happy Easter **AO** suggested that a chocolate gift would be given out to the children at the end of the school day on behalf of the PTA on the last day of term.

LR agreed to this. **AR** asked if there was an option for the children that can't have chocolate due to allergies. **AO** agreed to look into this.

Headteacher Update:

Positive affirmations have been embedded within the school day at the moment and this is part of the Health and Wellbeing focus that the authority has asked all the schools to have a focus on this term and beyond. Discussions have been happening around responsibilities for feelings within school. Charlie Mackesy's quotes have been a resource for this.

The school continues to use Twitter as their main communication platform to parents.

Staff have been appreciating how some children will be feeling low and they may have heightened anxieties around this time, it has been explained to the children that this is normal at the moment.

Staff have been reassuring the children that it is ok to feel a little low and down.

Mrs Orr and Mrs Renton are the main staff members that send out Tweets, this is the most secure and suitable platform to celebrate the school and the work of the children.

The aim is to have 1 Tweet per class per week, and parents should be seeing much more.

The class teachers are being encouraged to demonstrate how the school showcases their work on Twitter to the classes, this will help motivate the children and keep the positivity going.

Behaviour seems to have dipped a little and things have been challenging at times since being back and having all the children in the school. Staff are looking at behaviour management and this will be carried forward to next term. There will be strategies in place for both seniors and infants to promote positive behaviour.

Restorative conversations are being had with the children. The current behaviour policy will be revisited.

P7 is sometimes challenging at the moment. They only have a patch on the playground and this is proving difficult.

There is new playground equipment from excess funds from the previous year's spending.

Restrictions mean that currently no parent helpers are allowed in the playground or the school.

After Easter, office staff and LR have volunteered to accompany the P7's to the park at break.

AO: Some parents are not fully aware of the ongoing school restrictions while the children are in school.

LR: Positive behaviour will be the focus moving forward. P7's are greatly restricted due to the guidelines of COVID.

The school is going to look at what can be done for the P7's leaving, possibly a BBQ as this can be carried out outside. We are mindful that they don't leave school without any event marking this.

School management have organised anxiety workshops being run by CAMHS. This will be offered out to parents. The school nurses are working alongside the LIAM programme (Lets Introduce Anxiety Management). Other parent agencies are also involved with the school.

The school is keen to move forward with support groups for parents with children who have an ASN.

There has been liaisons with Dalkeith High School regarding the travel and school bus situation. Parents are aware that children that are not entitled will be the last for a decision to be made.

Derek Oliver is the Director of Place for the authority. Transport needs to be fair and transparent and the authority is committed to this.

AO: LR was that information communicated generally or given to you separately?

LR: This was due to my own enquiries.

AO: Historically, bus passes were not issued until the last minute, so families had no idea until the last few days of holidays. The authority have not yet carried out the promised public consultations

on this and the parental engagement officer role has been promised for a year but is not yet advertised. Fiona Robertson is aware of this yet we haven't seen progress on the matter.

LR: the authority is committed to finding the right solution and are making efforts.

Staffing: We have had some long term absences to cover and have had to deploy our management staff: Mrs Findlay is in P3 at the moment, Mon, Thurs and Fri. Mrs Lovett is also in P3, 2 days per week. Mrs Orr is in P5 at the moment. Please bear with us at the moment, we may be a little slower in answering emails or messages but we are doing the best we can.

AO: where do the schools see the PC being involved in the coming year? There is a platform for parents to have a voice.

ZO: The school felt very supported by the PC and communication was kept up during the lockdown.

AO: We will try and share PC on Facebook more and empower parents to know they can contact the PC. Will there be another newsletter?

LR: yes tomorrow. 1/4/21

AO: Could a link to our FB page be included in a future newsletter? There is still a little resistance to social media and using twitter as a source for school info/examples of events & learning. We need to continuously make it clear to parents where to find information.

ZO: will update the handbook with details on sources of info.

LR: would like to get the Homework survey out.

AO: Jil Phair is unable to join meetings at the moment but remains keen to help with this.

KD: I'm happy to help with social media subgroup

EC: At the outset, Sarah and myself felt out of our depth with the social media subgroup. What is our remit? Where do parents have concerns? What's the feeling in the school community?

AO: These are all relevant questions. Keep going and feel free to send any draft q's to me.

LR: Things aren't great regarding behaviour and some of this is coming from Social media platforms e.g. viral tik tok challenges - school property has been damaged. Apple watches are now also present in school and being used in class while phones are put away.

KD: The community police officer used to visit schools, can we invite?

AO: Could the school have a pupil-led charter, e.g. This is how we behave in school...

Then put this out to parents? Could also have children make posters regarding behaviour pacts?

ACTIONS:

AO: to send out email to gather parent views /help on the Homework survey.

EC&KD: Social media subgroup - develop q's for parent/carers questionnaire/survey.

AO & LR: Thanks to everyone and have a Happy Easter.

NEXT MEETING: AGM on Wednesday June 9th 2021.
