

BONNYRIGG PARENT COUNCIL MEETING – THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2020

Attendees:- Jennifer Allison (Head Teacher); Caroline Findlay (Deputy Head Teacher); Sarah Stark (Deputy Head Teacher); Lynne B (Joint Chair); Lynne L (Joint Chair); Melissa (Treasurer); Christine (Secretary); John Small and Elaine.

Lynne L commencing with a quick overview of the Agenda as follows:-

AGENDA

1. Review last meetings Minutes (Lynne B & Lynne L)
2. NPFS (National Parent Forum of Scotland) email address (Lynne L)
3. Any Covid-19 Updates (Jennifer)
4. Parent Survey (Jennifer)
5. Twitter (Lynne L)
6. Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policy (Lynne B)
7. Standards & Quality (Jennifer)
8. School Improvement Plan (Jennifer)
9. Milk Carton Recycling Proposal (Lynne B)
10. Fundraising & Treasurer Update (Sarah & Melissa)

1. REVIEWING LAST MEETING MINUTES (SEPTEMBER 2020)

Lynn B asking Sarah Stark whether we were any further forward with a tab on the information section of the school app, to enable parents to easily view Minutes, access PC information and provide a link to the PC email group. Sarah Stark indicating this should be easy enough to do, and would sort this out.

Lynn L then following up on all other matters raised at last month's meeting as follows:-

- Parents evening – this has all been arranged since last meeting, and is going ahead next week.
- Reading & curriculum booklets – all information was sent out about this last week. Parents have also been updated about reading in class.

- School photos – this has been a great success. The feedback from the P1 parents has been fantastic, and Elaine & Melissa able to confirm this from her own personal experience.
- School lunches – commencing next week.
- Flu immunisation – this is going to be taking place 1 week today (Thursday 5th November). Jennifer Allison requesting that a reminder be put on the ap about this to advise parents.
- Contingency plan – this has been put in place with the information on the ap.

2. NATIONAL PARENT FORUM E-MAIL ADDRESS

Lynne B confirming this generic inbox is now up and running, with the 2 chairs (namely herself and Lynne L now having the facility to access). Going forward the NPFS is the preferred generic e-mail address. Both e-mails to be used in group e-mails however. Also noting that the flyer has the old e-mail address, so this requires to be updated.

3. COVID-19 UPDATE

Face masks – Caroline Findlay advising that a few parents are eager to see more parents wearing face masks in the playground. Jennifer Allison suggesting that this be put on the app by the committee. Noting that all teachers wear masks at the doors, and it is hoped that as many parents as possible could follow suit. Spread the word!

4. PARENT SURVEY

Caroline Findlay advising that the school has received great, positive feedback so far from the parent surveys that went out. The surveys are however still open and close on Monday. Caroline still able to give a snapshot of the current figures. There are 2 different surveys. One survey is for returning families, with the other being for new families.

Caroline confirming that so far, the nursery have had 24 responses back from returning families, and 14 from new starts. All percentage rates read through and will be published to enable parents to see all the figures. Caroline then explaining that some parents have never even been into the nursery so they are keen to think of as many ways of sharing information as they can. They therefore plan to do a fortnightly newsletter. There will be boards outside the nursery with information & photos. They can chat to parents over the fence and staff are doing a 10 minutes parents evening.

Moving onto the school survey, noting that 43 responses have come back so far. Again, the percentages will be published. In terms of communication it was mentioned that parents' evenings are happening next week but that better communication needed between the school and parents. Lynn B mentioning that a few p2 parents had mentioned homework. Jennifer taking a note to look out the home learning statement.

Further, there have been 31 responses about the service the school is providing and an October to Christmas newsletter will be coming out.

5. TWITTER

Lynne L suggested that it would be useful if Twitter could be used by the school more. Jennifer Allison agreeing that this is a valid suggestion, and that one of reasons for the initial delay in tweeting again, was that the school had to await the photo permissions from parents. The school will actively now encourage all classes to start tweeting, whilst acknowledging that it is important for parents to see what's going on.

6. ANTI-BULLYING & BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Lynn B querying a leaflet which was previously under review before lockdown. The anti-bullying policy & good behavior policy will be sent to committee to review again. This policy can then be finalized at the next meeting due to take place in January.

7. STANDARDS & QUALITY

Running through the Standards & Quality report which is now published on the school website. The school's priority last year was the nursery. Due to the impact of covid, nothing much has changed for the coming year. Jennifer explaining what the school is doing in order to develop literacy, science, numeracy and community and the school is in the process of having attainment meetings. Caroline confirming that she is continuing to work on the advice from the HMI inspection, and staff are really working on trying to share the learning with parents. The nursery have 3 learning priorities which they are focusing on - literacy, numeracy and wellbeing. They are trying to put activities out that the children will engage in, and also using tracking sheets to record their progression.

Jennifer positively noting that when the inspection was carried out, the HMR was very impressed with our social policy. There has been clear progression throughout.

Another priority this year is transition to high school. Lasswade High School would like to get to know children earlier, in the hope that they may be able to support families so they don't fall behind. The school has been working closely with Caroline Brown, one of the Deputes from Lasswade High.

Jennifer suggesting that the group go online and read through the report in more detail, and any specific points or queries to get in touch with her. The school is keen to have parents' feedback. This could be put on the school ap – perhaps a shorter, broken-down version.

8. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Covered above – refer to Section 7.

9. MILK CARTON RECYCLING PROPOSAL

Pre-covid the school recycle milk cartons, along with paper recycling. Since covid however this hasn't been possible. Children are not allowed to go between classes & the children are eating lunches in the classrooms. They have to avoid huddling, so it has therefore not been practical. Lynne B advising she had been approached by a company called FRN Recycling. Going onto explain about how the company trialed a recycling project for East Linton Primary School, and how they have now expanded this within 13 other local schools but however the school still require to rinse out the cartons and there is an annual cost for this of £85. John Small suggesting whether small, individual bins for each class could be an option. Noting both of these suggestions still not practical, given the issues of rinsing out. Lynne B to e-mail Jennifer the details to Jennifer. Keen to recycle but not keen to pay a company and Jennifer will approach the eco-committee within the school to look into this further.

10. FUNDRAISING & TREASURER UPDATE

Mellissa confirmed the sum of £7,523.96 is in the account. A large chunk of that was being held back for lighting that has not and might not happen now. Mellissa is going to look into opening a Treasure's account with Santander.

Jennifer asking whether the fundraising committee had any knowledge of a virtual athletics' sports hall competition, with the cost of this being £490. Lynne B confirmed she received an e-mail about this and will forward the information on to Jennifer for review.

Sarah & Jennifer thanking the fundraising committee for all chocolates recently handed in for the teachers.

One final request made before the end of the meeting by Lynne B touching on the school app again. Asking for more detail to be given in the heading field when documents are being attached? Sarah will ensure going forward the office save the attachments in a more detailed way.