

MINUTES

Woodside Primary Parent Council Thursday 14th January 2021: 7pm Zoom Meeting

Attending Angela Maclennan, Claire Thom, Julie Lamont, Lucy Colligan, Lynn Daly, Sarah McCready, Gareth Thomson, Barry Naismith, Carol White, Louise McRobbie, Jonny Simpson, Jennifer Beattie, Evelyn McGonagle, Kathleen Faloon and Elaine Renwick.

Apologies: Elizabeth Fletcher, Charlotte Officer, Gillian Henderson, Jaclyn Robertson, Kathryn Stewart, Kristina McKean, Michelle McQuade, Eileen McKellar, Cllr Ross and Cllr Nailon

Introduction and Welcome:

Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting 12th November 2020 were approved. A message of thanks for the P7 hoodies being issued early this year from Kathryn Stewart was read out.

Treasurer's report – See treasurer's report emailed out. Bank balance is currently £2201.08. Christmas raffle raised £832, Christmas cards raised £1028. Angela has a forecast balance at end June of £886.48 based on projected costs from last year. Given the circumstances and that we don't currently know if any of the leavers events, sports days or house awards will be able to take place it was felt we should leave further fundraising until the next academic year as a forecast balance of £886 is a healthy balance to be carrying forward. This can be readdressed if the school need our assistance with funding any resources to enhance/enable online learning. Angela will be leaving at the summer, Max Kennedy is going to take over the role of Treasurer. Angela to arrange to put Max on as a signatory to the account and give the current signatories bank access if necessary. Current signatories are Angela, Lynn Daly, Elaine Renwick, Julie Lamont, Claire Thom and a member of the school office staff.

Christmas Raffle Update

Thanks to Claire and Lynn for managing the spreadsheet. Good result from the raffle – 885 tickets bought by 105 people. Facebook page set up to promote raffle now has a good number of followers – can use to promote future events or information for parents.

Action Points from last meeting

Letter was send out to parents regarding parking areas around the school to try to encourage parents to park slightly further away and stop congestion at the school.

Street sweeper has been in the clean the playground – if necessary can come back

Pallets for playground being left just now until the children are back in school

Parent council funds purchased snacks for festive Friday – photos on facebook page

Elizabeth Fletcher has applied to the Co-op for a grant on behalf of the parent council – it is hoped that the grant will pay, at least in part, for the festive Friday snacks.

P7 Hoodies

64 bright blue hoodies were received in December and distributed out to the P7 kids prior to the Christmas holidays. We have a new pupil in P7 so are trying to get a couple of extra hoodies to allow new starts to get one too.

Home School Partnership

Evelyn introduced herself as the home school partnership worker – funded by the school's PEF money. Evelyn has experience in working in both primary and secondary school and works to supports parents with their children's education. She works in partnership with teachers and parents to try to ensure children reach their full potential. Looking into setting up workshops addressing literacy, parenting, building confidence in your child etc. Currently making phone calls and home visits to build relationships and provide support to parents. She has already been out delivering Chrome books to allow more children access to Google classroom and has been delivering food gifts from Rocca. [Lynn Daly to provide Evelyn with contact details for Hamilton Money](#)

Matters so she can make direct referrals. She may make use of the PC facebook page to distribute information to parents.

Headteacher's update:

- Elaine asked for feedback from those present tonight about the first week of online schooling. Overall feedback was positive. Teachers videos were thought to be good. Issue over parents uploading work completed to the stream resulting in a competition like feel to some year groups was raised – Elaine was aware of this and intends to address it. There is no expectation that work will be uploaded to google classroom. Jotters can be sent in when the children come back to school. Teachers will use these to take a quick glance at to see where children are.
- In first lockdown the work issued was 'holding work' so was revision and consolidation. This time the expectation is to try to create, as closely as possible, what would have been happening in classrooms so the work being issued is 'new' work, teaching new concepts. There has been a lot of press coverage about live lessons but it was felt that these were not suitable for all, particularly as some families are accessing the work outside of school hours due to work commitments so decision was made to have recorded lessons to allow all pupils to access work and not to disadvantage any children. The staff have two 40 minute sessions during the day when they are 'live' on google classroom so will answer questions promptly at these times. From next week, one of these sessions each day on 4 days of the week will be live on google meets. Initially these will have a pastoral aim and look at reviewing learning. Only on live 4 days as each member of staff has a one day a week commitment in school to provide cover for the hub provided for vulnerable children and children of key workers.
- Really high [>90%] numbers of children accessing Google classroom this time – very positive, school are delighted with children's engagement.
- Rules and instructions for Google meets classes will be sent out tomorrow. All sessions will be recorded. Expectation is that children will be able to access the Google meets classes independently.
- As the work this time is new it would be good if children were on everyday and tried to complete the work set. However, if children are getting stressed, take a break and do something else. We will get it sorted when they are back in school. As some parents/children are accessing the work out with school hours it has been decided not to upload work for the next day in advance of that day to avoid confusion and/or stress.
- Feedback from PC members:
 - o easier if work is posted under a day folder rather than under subject heading so that each days work is all in one place.
 - o Could work from last lockdown be archived or removed
 - o Could work be put on with a due date or in a folder for a specific day as children not always motivated to complete work that they can't see as being 'due'.
- Gareth noted that the teachers' efforts and work were really appreciated and Sarah asked if teachers were receiving enough support.
 - o Elaine – it's a giant learning curve for the teachers and has been very time consuming recording and uploading lessons to google classroom. They are also trying to balance family commitments as is everyone. Support staff are in schools this time which is very helpful. The school has a strong team with good support between stage partners. They are focusing on what works for each teacher/stage. Will pass on comments from the PC.

Fundraising

Suggestion from parents about getting a class photo taken by teacher and selling these to parents – plan to do this near to Easter.

Raffle for a Nintendo Switch Bundle, donated by Julie's firm, before Christmas. Will advertise and run this via the Woodside Parent Council Facebook page.

Contacted about selling masks as a fundraiser but our kids only need masks for buses so not going to run with this.

COVID Support

Evelyn will use PC facebook page to promote support access.

Could we facilitate a place to chat – Year group facebook pages are established, will post on PC facebook page that these pages exist and will check there is a P1 facebook page.

AOCB

Textile bin at Tesco always full – Fiona Mitchell has contact details

From Elaine:

Thanks to all parents for following the rules prior to lockdown – we have been incredible in terms of number of infections and exposures especially given the size of the school, number of children and contacts. Thank you for keeping our school community safe.

By Christmas the majority of children were not felt to be significantly behind in terms of learning. Intense work was going on with those that were struggling. Work being posted on google classroom is differentiated to target those children that are struggling.

Transition to High School – last years P7's had a positive transition to high school despite the lockdown restrictions. Hamilton Grammar School will work to ensure the same for this year's leavers.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 11th March 2021 - AGM