

# MINUTES



**Date:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
**Location:** Teams  
**Time:** 6.30pm  
**Subject:** Parent Council Meeting

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## In attendance:

<b>Staff:</b>	Sheona Allen (HT) Jill Donald	Hilary Roddick Lisa Burke	
<b>Parents:</b>	Jennifer Schofield (Chair)	Jill Penman (Vice Chair)	Angela McGhee (Clerk)
	Heather Murray Louise Thompson Risha Davda Joyce Thomson Heather Murray Frances Stewart	Nicola Scott Maureen Matheson Joslyn Currie Emma Donaldson Nicola Scott Christina Jenkins	Emma Henderson Justine Currie Jill Penman Karen McBride Louise Holland
<b>Apologies:</b>	Nic McColm	Susan Tate	Lorraine Donnelly

## 1. Welcome & Minutes from Previous Meeting

Jennifer Schofield, Chair, welcomed all. Asked if everyone had read through the minutes sent and as per PC guidelines, asked for two witnesses to confirm they were accurate - Louise Thompson and Joslyn Currie attested to this.

Chair confirmed there had been a few emails of interest from P2 parents regarding the other P2 Rep role but that this was still an available position. Louise Thompson confirmed same situation for another Nursery Rep.

## 2. Head Teachers Report

The HT commented that this had been a particularly frantic terms with lots of pupil and staff isolations. Staff were trying to interpret and navigate the ever changing Covid guidance which had been very challenging but she feels that things have calmed down a little now.

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Throughout this all the children have been outstanding; happy, secure learners and those that were struggling a little were working with staff.

## **RSHP**

HT talked about the RSHP programme and how this would be rolled out and taught to children. The purpose is to give factual information to children using the right information and language so that they can develop healthy relationships and understand language used. Unlike SHRE, which was delivered once a year, this will be spread throughout the year and fit in with when makes sense and appropriate. It is all based around the age and stage of the children with lots of similar lessons to what is being done already.

Termly Learning sheets will be returning after the October holiday so information on RSHP will be included on this. It's important for parents to see what children are being taught as it should be in partnerships with what the family and open up conversations at home too. A number of teachers have already done the course and time will be spent working on this during the In-Service day on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Miss Roddick commented that she had been working with the Primary 7's last year who found the programme informative and felt that it cleared up a lot of things for them. Mrs Donald has also done the course and felt that it included the best elements of the old SHRE programme.

*Question from Emma Henderson asking when parents will be informed about when the RSHP is actually being talked about in class so that they can be involved at home.*

*HT advised it would be on the termly learning sheet with links to resources and that potentially some teacher may post on Teams.*

*Question from HT asking what do we send/provide for parents as they can be anxious about this learning (\* PC had been sent multiple links and videos to resources earlier that day from Mrs Allen\*)*

*Jocyn Currie commented that she felt that the programme looked great and that all resources are readily available for anyone to look at if they want to see what is being taught to children. It would be overwhelming to send everything at once and that the Termly Learning sheets with information was fine. PC agreed.*

*\*\*Since the meeting parents have been sent two links to information about RSHE\*\**

## **Parent Night Phonecall**

HT said that the feedback had generally been very positive. At that point 130 responses had been received from the feedback form sent out. Parents felt that the phone call was a little more private than all in the hall together although they did miss seeing school work and classroom.

Lots of comments were made about potentially moving to video calls through Teams but there are no definite plans as to what will happen going forward.

*Question from Risha Thomson saying that she felt a lot was covered in the time allocated so it was off putting to have the teacher open the call stating "we only have 7 minutes..."*

*HT said she would take this feedback re language used on board. The management team had suggested a script of sorts for the teachers to use to open the phone call as there had been, understandably, a bit of concern about keeping to the timings as much as possible but making sure they gave a well-rounded report.*

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*Question from Karen McBride asking when primary 5b will get their parent phone call?  
HT confirmed this will take place sometime after October holiday.*

## **School Improvement**

During the In-service day staff will be working on the maths and numeracy policy and ensuring that what is being said on paper is actually what is being done in class. Interdisciplinary learning is a big part of Curriculum for Excellence – will be working on what it is and how do we do that in school setting. The aim is to hand some control to the children for learning skills that they will need and then setting rich tasks e.g around COP 26 where they can implement it.

Miss Roddick gave an update on reading for pleasure. They have already started to identify the children who will really benefit from this and Mrs Morrison has been working with them on their view of reading and how they feel about it. This is about not just mechanical ready but working on really understanding the text. Time will be spent on the In-service day upskilling the support staff to enable more small groups to work together to develop understanding of text. If children have these skills, they will not see reading as a chore. Next term will be a focus on encouraging reading for pleasure. There will be protected reading time, 10 minutes every day, where the children can read what they want or can bring in their own reading book. The adult in class will also be reading at the same time to really promote the school culture for reading. There will be discussion in class afterwards which is what we are aiming towards – again around the understanding of the text. A reading list will be provided on what they might like based on what they've just read.

*Question from Joyce Thomson saying it all sounds fab and wonders if it will extend to sending reading books home again?*

*HT says that book bags have just been ordered for all P1&2 - 80 bags with 80 different books and the bag will be swapped every week.*

Miss Roddick said that P5 children are going to be paired with younger children to read together. Mrs Morrison is working with P5 on how to read with another child and said they are incredibly enthusiastic about it, will be great for all children involved.

*Louise Thompson comments that her P5 son is very excited about the paired reading.*

## **3. Nursery Update**

Lisa Burke stepped up in place of Amy who was unwell. Health and Wellbeing is the big focus – so many children there who aren't as socialised and not as sure how to communicate as they would've been in previous years. Nursery are working on friendships and values. Children are generally really settled, enjoying each other so engaging well with learning.

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Makaton and signing are going well and the childrens' skills in their own story maps are evolving quickly. Literacy taster has been sent to parents, a new area for numeracy and maths has been created and the outdoor learning is developing.

With the extra hours a lot of work is being done to ensure the morning and afternoon sessions are equally engaging. Lisa noted that lunch times have a very peaceful atmosphere with calming music played for the children.

*Louise Thompson commented that the learning journals and the videos on facebook are appreciated and it's nice to hear that things are children led for imaginative play.*

## 4. Parent Forum

Chair attended the virtual parent forum and advised that she would share slides and resources with rest of Parent Council body.

The information shared about digital learning very much showed that Lenzie Meadow was already miles ahead of most other schools in terms with what we have been offering pupils for some time now.

Mental Health was discussed but most of the focus was on high school aged children. The impact of covid on primary and nursery children was acknowledged though.

*HT pointed out that the school do still have a counselling service available for any child who might need it.*

## 5. Parent Body Items

### Transition and Residential

Heather Murray asked what's possible for this year's Primary 7's.

HT advised the Academy have not been in touch so we will chase this up. The school would love to do the Residential but don't want to book until we know for sure we can do it. As soon as we get the go ahead we will get going – we have been chasing this up with the Council to no avail so far.

### Allocation of weekly homework

Question regarding whether possible to have homework allocated on a Monday and due back the following Monday as tricky with kids extracurricular activities.

*Mrs Roddick and Mrs Donald advised this is what they each have in place already and allows plenty of time for children to ask any questions.*

Question asked specifically about P7 as they are given reading tasks on a Monday which are then due on the Wed.

*Mrs Roddick advised that the Primary 7's are actually told their reading task the Wed before although it doesn't get officially set as homework. Onus on them to remember and organise this.*

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*HT advises that she will liaise with staff on the in service day to get the routine clarified for homework.*

*Risha Thomson noted that the PO4s are given their books for two weeks and feels this is really good.*

## 6. AOCB

Nicola Scott asks what paint is being used in primary 1 and children's clothes are being stained. Asked if possible to use an apron?

*HT will discuss with staff at in service day.*

Question raised about the possible path across from the rugby club which has been talked about many times.

*HT advised that has been discussed many times and that funding was pulled due to disagreements over lighting the path. JS will take to the next parent forum.*

ED advised that another parent had headed up a group previously which had looked the cost and the environmental impact of a path but it had kind of lost steam because the person at EDC had retired. Need to get a group together to drive this forward again.

*HT said that she would send something out to the parent body to bring group of interest people together and see if we can push forward as definitely a safer option for many children given the volume of traffic and people on Myrtle. \*Email has since been sent out to parents\**

LH asks if there has been a change in the arrangements for the school bus seating?

*HR explains that the children no longer need to sit in allocated rows.*

LH said parents weren't aware that the children were no longer allocated in rows and would be helpful in future to know this just to prepare children.

**JS brought meeting to a close after checking everyone still happy with meetings continuing on Mondays.**