

# MINUTES



**Date:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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 Amy Gray	Lorraine Donnelly
<b>Parents:</b>	Jennifer Schofield (Chair)	Jill Penman (Vice Chair)	Angela McGhee (Clerk)
	Louise Thompson Risha Davda Joyce Thomson	Nicola Scott Maureen Matheson Josyln Currie Emma Donaldson	Susan Tate Justine Currie Jill Penman Karen McBride
<b>Apologies:</b>	Emma Henderson	Heather Murray	

## 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 – Risha Thomson and Maureen Matheson attested to this.

## 2. Head Teachers Report

Another busy month and lots to update us on:

### SIP

1: Inter Disciplinary Learning

2: Reading

3: Language and Communication

Cop26 has provided the first opportunity to look at Inter Disciplinary Learning and how it differs from teaching curricular subjects. Lots of positive feedback from pupils. Premise is to make children responsible for learning. Another IDL next term – lots of learner conversations with children and SMT and feedback to continue this journey and work through it.

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E.R.I.C is going really well with children and staff.

Language & Communication – looking at environment in all classrooms and making sure that there is consistency across the board.

## **P7 update**

LD confirmed that Residential trip has been given the green light from Alan Smith at the authority. This is being booked just now and letters will be going to parents imminently.

*\*Pupils & parents have since been informed about the March trip to Lockerbie manor\**

Neil Farquhar is the new Head of S1 at Lenzie Academy and will be meeting with Lorraine this week to plan the P7 transition. Lorraine will update on this at the next meeting.

## **Questions from previous meeting**

- P1 teachers do encourage children to wear aprons when participating in messy play and there are plenty available. Teachers will continue to remind children to cover up when painting.
- Homework policy has now been tweaked to allow a full week for all homework to be submitted.
- There is a meeting scheduled on Thursday to discuss the potential for a path across the rugby club/moss.

## **Staff update**

Miss Kupeli and Miss Ludford will be covering the maternity leave for Mrs McMahon and Mrs Lightbody. Covid is still taking a toll with staff having to go for PCR's etc so it is having an impact on staffing but we are working through this as best as possible.

## **Football**

School is often asked why no football colours allowed – this policy applies throughout the West of Scotland.

Originally, playing football during interval or lunch was not allowed to comply with Covid guidelines, however, it actually had a very positive outcome. There was a reduction in playground arguments and the children were playing better together and with more creativity. It allows for greater inclusivity as there is such a spectrum of abilities. Football is still played during PE and staff are teaching football skills during PE slots. It is also sometimes allowed as an earned privilege to classes.

There are lots of opportunities within East Dunbartonshire to play out with school including a local man who is using the pitch on a Monday evening which some of the pupils are already participating in.

## **Christmas**

School is still under a lot of restrictions but Christmas will still be fun!

- Christmas Jumper Day
- PTA panto
- Christmas parties in class – P7 will be held in hall
- Nativity will be filmed and posted on Teams
- Christmas Service

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PTA Christmas Fayre has been cancelled. Although this would have been technically allowed to go ahead, there was a huge amount of additional work involved to make it happen such as track and trace. The PTA have decided to focus on a raffle and school will do whatever it can to support them.

*Maureen Matheson comments that everyone understands why it can't happen but the result is a lack of PTA funds. The PTA have paid for swimming lessons for Primary 5 & 6 and usually cover the cost of P7 leavers hoodies but there is a concern about the lack of fund raising opportunities to raise money.*

HT advises that we will approach parents to ask for donations to for raffle and Chair confirms that the Parent Council will do everything it can to support the PTA

*Question from Louise Thompson asking if the Covid rules are EDC or National? Seems very unfair with lots of wasted opportunities*

HT advises that Scottish Government issue guidance and then EDC will interpret this. The guidance for schools is still very strict.

*Maureen Matheson comments that EDC haven't said you can't have Christmas events but have made it very difficult to actually make these things happen.*

HT advises that there are still some parents very concerned about Covid so it is important to strike a balance.

*Emma Donaldson comments that the Old Gatehouse is having a Christmas Fayre so could be potential for PTA to take a stall or something – Maureen has noted this.*

## **Maths & numeracy in school**

LD has been working on the maths and numeracy policy to ensure it's a true representation of what's actually happening in school. Work on, for example, jotter layout to make sure it's the same across the board

Conversations have been taking place with the children to get their views, so much positivity from them which wouldn't have been the same a few years ago. Children engaged with different strategies and understanding why they do it. LD is meeting with the Learning Committee this week on the policy and asked if she could send on to the PC to read and provide feedback. *\*This was sent out to PC members on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November\**

## **Nursery Update**

Currently rehearsing Nativity – 3 sessions planned in the school hall to film with the show being sent out from the 1/12.

Comment from Louise Thompson regarding separating the Nursery from the Lenzie Meadow Primary Parent Council. The nursery provides a service to the wider community and not all children go on to attend Lenzie Meadow so information within Parent Council is often not relevant to them at all. Timings for Parent Council meeting are not as suitable for parents with nursery aged children. Information about the Nursery is also not relevant with anyone who only has children in the school. Decision made for Nursery to set up their own Parent Council but still have Louise Thomson link in with us for any relevant nursery information for the remainder of this school year.

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## 3. Parent Body Items

### Homework

*Joslyn Currie said she has been asked about the amount of homework done via teams. Families are struggling with the amount of devices being used and the amount of time in front of screens. Parents don't want their children in front of a screen all the time.*

*Joyce Thomson adds that a hard copy of reading book or homework book would be good – too much is electronic based.*

HT advises that we need to keep Teams going so that we have the ability to move to online learning should the need ever arise again. With regard to “real” books coming home, children are encouraged to read anything at their disposal and not just reading books from school but this will be discussed with SMT team.

*Joslyn comments that a greater balance is perhaps a jotter to do work in at home so not just all on screen.*

### Nativity plans

General question around Christmas and nativity plans.

SA advises nativity dates and general Christmas information will be available soon. *\*Christmas Calendar has now been sent out to parents\**

*Nicola Scott has been asked by a P1 parent to ask when fun will be allowed back in to school again...*

HT explains that extracurricular clubs are only available if they have staff available/willing to run them. Mr Hannah has just finished a P5 afterschool club, Mrs McIntyre is going to be running a netball club and Miss Roddick is planning a languages afterschool club too. Our active school's coordinator, Katie Muhyeddeen, is in contact with us regarding future possibilities but as we are still unable to have parents in the school it is still fairly limited. However, HT assures us that every day is fun in school!

### Coat hooks in playground

*Parent question's the possibility of coat hooks available outside for children to hang up coats rather than leave it lying on the ground whilst they are playing.*

HT advises that there cannot be any hooks on the MUGA as it's a hazard. Everything needs to strictly adhere to Health and Safety regulations but leave it with her to have a look into what might be doable.

### Book donations

*Joyce Thomson asks if there are enough books or do we need more donated?*

HT said we can buy in more books after getting feedback from children about what they are interested in. No donations required.

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Miss Roddick said they are looking at the upper school books just now. Trying to introduce more authors that are not as commonly known. Want to introduce more diversity when buying books. HT wants to make sure that the books available represent all of our school children with no unconscious bias.

*Risha Thompson asks with regards to ERIC, are they supposed to be reading the same book at home and school?*

Miss Roddick said that ERIC is for enjoyment so totally up to the children what they read. Children are reading books and then feeding back to their friends who then want to read those same books and everyone wants to read quickly to get them finished and talk about them. It's proving a really good initiative.

*Emma Donaldson comments that there was Library funding almost ready to be made available pre-covid so worth looking back at that and see if it's still available. Louise Thompson is going to follow up on this and feedback to us in January.*

## **P1 newspaper photographs**

*Susan Tate asks question on behalf of Emma Henderson as to why the P1 classes were not included in the newspaper photographs like other local schools.*

HT advises that Lenzie Meadow have never been involved with the Evening Times P1 photograph spread, there used to be one in the local paper but never the Evening Times. Tempest will come in the new year and take class photographs.

## **P1 gym days**

*Question asked regarding changes to P1 gym days*

HT advises there has been no change that she is aware of but any changes would be communicated via Teams.

## **Communication Platforms**

*Joclyn Currie raises question about multiple communication methods used.*

HT advises that the Parents Portal has been introduced with the aim to be the main channel for communication with parents. Groupcall will eventually be phased out as Parents Portal will be used for everything including setting up parent's evenings, data checks and permission slips eventually.

## **AOCB**

*Parent asked question about Covid reporting. Asked why school doesn't advise which child has the infection so that parents can judge whether their child has been a close contact.*

Chair advises firstly that GDPR would not allow for any details to be given on specific names. HT also confirms that Scottish Government dictates what schools have to do in the case of a positive covid case within a school environment. Current guidelines state that whole class isolations are no longer required, the school just needs to advise parents that there has been a positive case in their child's class.

**JS brought meeting to a close – next meeting rescheduled to **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022****

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