**St Nicholas’ Primary School Parent Council 2020/21**

**Meeting Title**: St Nicholas’ Parent Council Meeting No.2

**Meeting date**: Tuesday 17th November 2020

**Meeting location**: Virtual Meeting Teams: Time: 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

**Attendees**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rachael MacDonald | Chair | RMD |
| Donal McDermot | St Andrew’s Church Rep | DMD |
| Caitlin McKenna | Member | CMK |
| Anne Quinn | Member | AQ |
| Laura Jardine | Member | LJ |
| Charlotte Grogan  Angela Murray  Carol Lennon  Aileen Darley  Gillian Harkness  Rebecca Meighan  Emma Hannay  Margaret Clowes  Janine Peck  Natalie Matheson | Head Teacher  Depute  Depute  Teacher  Member  Member  Member  Member  Member  Member | CG  AM  CL  AD  GH  RM  EH  MC  JP  NM |

**Additional distribution**

[sharedservices.education@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:sharedservices.education@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

[libraries@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Signed: Rachael MacDonald, Chair Date: 1st December 2020

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
   1. Apologies for absence were noted from Jackie McColl, Laura Jardine and Vicki Roger.
2. **Minutes & points arising from the previous meeting – September 2020**
   1. Minutes under review.

**3 Head Teachers Report**

**3.1**  **Staffing**

Carol Lennon has taken up post of DHT and is beginning to get to know our pupils and their families.

Aileen Knoud has taken up the 15 hour classroom assistant post. This post was recruited in August but due to HR delays she has only started this month. At present the school is fully staffed.

**3.2** . **Update on Recovery Plan**

Feedback from the parental questionnaire highlighted that there were issues with downloading using Teams and the assignment section. There were also some issue with the amount of printing that was required at home.

It has been decided that the Notebook section of teams would be better as it requires less downloads and printing. It also means that children can type or write onto the page and it is saved automatically for the teacher to see. Staff have had training on how to use this feature and a how to book is being created for parents. Notebook will be part of homework via teams from 30th November.

Staff have under taken Paths training and will now start using this with their classes. Paths is a resource that teaches emotional literacy and how to manage feelings. The staff will evaluate this programme in Feb to decide next steps.

SeeSaw- EDC are purchasing a licence for every child in the school. There has been a delay in this at council level, however hopefully this will be obtained soon. The current P1 cohort have a trial version but this does not have all the features. Seesaw will initially be used for profiling and sharing class work regularly with parents

**3:3 Literacy and Numeracy Policy**

In order to ensure consistency and take account of recent school and national developments in both curricular areas the policies have been reviewed..

Within the Literacy policy, there have been significant change to the teaching of reading, to ensure that reading tools are being developed. The new approach ensures quality teaching time with each group and pupil independence.  The area of writing has also been developed and staff are focusing on 3 different reason for writing:

Writing to convey experience or Information

Writing to describe events real or imaginary

Writing to give an opinion which includes persuasion and exploring issues.

A correction policy for P1-2 and P3-7 has been developed so that children can identify their next steps.

In Numeracy teaching is based around SEAL approach (Stages of Arithmetical Learning). Children are encouraged to discuss their methodology and learn from their mistakes as well as being active and apply their numeracy.

**3.4 Head Boy/ Head Girl**

 Joanna Gillies and Connor McWilliams have been appointed Head Boy and Girl. There were a number of candidates who not only created statements about why they should be appointed but also attended a short interview. The standard was very high and those who were not successful have been offered a place in the JMT

.

**4 Reporting to Parents**

**4.1**.Discussion around online meetings. Mrs Grogan said teachers would need corporate accounts to hold these meetings which only Head Teacher and Deputes have access to, so this style of reporting would not be possible.

**4.2** Discussion around teachers telephoning parents, highlighted that the school would have an insufficient number of phone lines and teachers would not be able to use their own phones to conduct these calls. Mrs Grogan said, if a parent needs to speak with a teacher they are always encouraged to telephone the school.

**4.3** Mrs Grogan highlighted that East Dunbartonshire’s policy for reporting to parents is to give information in the best possible way, and said that staff have taken a lot of time to ensure their reports are telling parents exactly what they would be saying at a face to face meeting and in line with EDC guidance. AD said staff are as disappointed as parents that there will be no face to face appointments.

**5 Safety Barrier Ledi**

**5.1** Update by EH, a 20m barrier will be erected from the lights at Ledi drive to meet with the current barrier at the bus bay. It is hoped that this barrier will deter parents from parking in the bus bays. The flashing 20 speed signs will remain at their current position for now, and the footpath from Ledi drive will be widened.

**6 6 homework**

**6.1** The result of Parent consultation was that game based homework such as study ladder, sumdog and bugclub was an adequate reinforcement of skills. There are no plans to use worksheets for homework. AQ suggested some parents have been struggling with devices and are having access issues and would prefer worksheets.

**6.2** AM said that in the recent consultation no issues with regards to this had been highlighted by parents and the issues highlighted had been downloading assignments.

**6.3** Mrs Grogan said that Sumdog is used all over and that she would look into why it is not working for some of our parents.

**6.4** Feedback from children has been very positive.

**7 Outside Seating**

**7.1** Discussion around the parish priests visiting and the cold weather outside, resulting in the children sitting on cold outside seating.

**7.2** Mrs Grogan has been in discussion with Father Mackle and Father Currie and they will be engaging more in active meetings outside, where the children will be moving around rather than sat stationary, this should remove the need of sitting on cold surfaces for long periods of time.

7.3 The priests will be beginning to host online meetings with the children.

**8.  Dates & Times for future meetings. Meetings will be virtual meetings for the foreseeable future.**

* Tuesday 19th January 2021, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
* Tuesday 30th March 2021, 6.30pm – 8.00pm
* Tuesday 15th June 2021, 6:30pm – 8:00pm