

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2020

Present: L. Murdoch, A. Wise, S. Whittle, M. Stewart, L. Jones, R. Gilmour-Jones

Apologies: C. Wylie

ACTIONS FROM MARCH MEETING

- C. Wylie had suggested a community food wastage, composting scheme. A. Wise had raised this at a Community Council meeting this month who were supportive. C. Wylie to discuss with Whitmuir Organic Farm as they have done something similar there. **ACTION REQUIRED: C. Wylie**
- Funding is available from Fallago Windfarm company (up to £5,000) for community schemes. Must be applicable to whole community. Perhaps there is scope to use funding such as this to support a community composting

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the Parent Council, I would first like to start by saying how sorry we were to hear the very sad news of the passing of Mrs Lorraine Mulholland. Lorraine was an inspirational and very supportive music teacher for many years at the school. She was a central figure in the community and made such a positive impact with the local children by running the Junior Choir at the church and teaching piano and recorder. She will be sorely missed by all and our thoughts and condolences go out to Peter, Patrick and family. Once the schools return we will work together on establishing a lasting memorial to Lorraine at the school.

School Closures: Miss Murdoch will provide an update on various challenges regarding the closures such as pre-school to P1 transition, P7 transition and future planning. It would be good to know whether activities lost during the closure such as P4-5 swimming lessons will be carried over to the next academic year.

Home-schooling: I would like to thank Miss Murdoch and her team for the weekly homeschooling packs and their continued online teaching support of the children. The encouragement and positive messages provided by school staff do make a difference in these highly challenging times. I would particularly like to thank Miss McDougall for the individual art slates she provided to the P2-4 pupils and for the inspirational messages that are positioned on the trees to the rear of the school.

Homeschooling Parent Council Activities: we are looking to help during the lockdown and I highlight ongoing initiatives:

1. We have arranged 3 x 45 min Street Dance sessions with Fiona Henderson, with the final one scheduled Mon 18th May. Fiona kindly offered these 3 classes free. We can arrange further classes which can be covered under the microgrant funding as below (circa £20 per class). 8 children have participated in each of the first 2 classes.
2. Peebles Community Trust provided some funding to Eddleston Community Council to aid with local challenges encountered during the lockdown. Through this generosity we have purchased a selection of Maths and English activity books for all Eddleston pupils which I intend to distribute over the coming week.
3. We secured £500 funding from The Bridge in Peebles as part of their COVID-19 microgrant initiative. This money is earmarked for covering the costs of online creative arts/dance classes during school closures. As part of this, Red Button Arts have put together 2 online arts videos entitled 'MAKE IT EASY' which are available via the school FB page.

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These cost £60 per video. Given the wide availability of free online arts classes we are likely to put these on hold now.

4. Virtual 3 Bridges Run: we set up our own 1.5 mile Eddleston version in conjunction with the PE teacher from Priorsford, Richard Edge. If anyone else has completed the run please contact me; and Richard would appreciate a donation to the NHS via his charity page (uk.virginmoneygiving.com/richardedge7).

If anyone else has ideas regarding how we can make a collective positive impact please let us know. R. Gilmour-Jones suggested to hold a sponsored challenge in tandem with the OOSC centred around the children running, walking or cycling a cumulative 513 miles (which is the number of year since the Eddleston was placed at the church) to raise funds for outdoor play equipment at the school. We would aim to include the new P1s in this challenge. Any equipment purchased would be available for the community. **ACTION: A Wise and R. Gilmour-Jones** to plan for this to take place. **L. Murdoch** to find out whether a live competition could be placed on Teams to keep children's up to date progress in the 513 mile challenge.

100 Club: We intend to run monthly draws to cover up to June this year using online video format at a date TBD towards end of June.

Parent Council Visibility: how can we improve this particularly with imminent new P1 intake. PC to have a presence at school events. Aim to get more parents/carers involved in the PC and its activities. Fundraising will be tight in the coming year due to the financial impact of the COVID crisis. **ACTION: L. Murdoch to provide A. Wise with contact details of new P1 parents subject to their consent.**

Green initiatives: Ecobricks: Making bricks from non-recyclable plastics. Ongoing at Newlands. Could this be something for the school to participate in post-lockdown? Would also get some cross-talk with another small school.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

- L. Murdoch is keeping parents and carers updated via email on a regular basis.
- End of year reports are in the same format as 2019. These reports will be issued in June. The method of delivery is TBC.
- Covid-19 cairn has been set up by Miss McDougall and is open to the whole community. Miss McDougall aims to make this more of a permanent fixture when we finally return to school.
- Miss McDougall is updating Facebook with not only news but also various competitions for the children.
- (SIR) is being written. Due to circumstances, not all actions will be completed as schools closed in March.
- (SIP) School Improvement Plan is also being written. Many of the 2019-2020 priorities will be moved to session 2020-2021 as they were not actioned due to school closures.
- P7 transition is, as yet, unconfirmed. SBC is providing guidance around transition.
- P1 transition is also being considered and is currently being planned.
- A new phonics programme, GL is being bought in for the new session.

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- GL Testing is being considered also as this deals with literacy and numeracy in both summative and formative.
- A more robust reading programme is also being assembled.
- Learning Journals are also being considered to provide robust evidence of progress and achievement.
- Planning for 2020-2021 is currently ongoing. Miss Murdoch is looking to provide more stability and structure in the forthcoming session.
- PEF funding is being released for the next two years which allows for better planning for interventions. This funding is used to make learning equitable.
- Inspire Learning – all permanent teachers have received an iPad. They will receive training on how to use the iPad and relevant applications. Current P7s should get iPad in June. New P6 and 7 will receive some iPads in late October (2:1 ratio), P1-5 will receive some iPads in October-December (either 2:1 ratio or 3:1).

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Current balance is £3945.68. Since the last meeting there has been the £500 grant. Only outgoings are £175 for the visit to the Scottish parliament and £330 prize money due out for the 100 club.

MATTERS ARISING

- Direct debit will be explored as a future way of gathering funds for 100 club.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- New office-bearers would be welcome, particularly for roles which are currently filled by those with P6 children; this would allow for an orderly and thorough handover.
- L. Jones asked about Hub provision for key workers over the summer. L. Murdoch said the current position is that Hubs will not run over the summer, though this is liable to change.
- L. Jones asked about any advice and guidance from SBC regarding child mental health and developing resilience. L. Murdoch said there wasn't at present. L. Jones offered to forward on any relevant resources to L. Murdoch for dissemination.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (AGM)

- TBC subject to school return date being set.