



NEWTONGRANGE PS PC MEETING – minutes

LOCATION: Zoom	
DATE: 9 th May 2022, 7:30pm	
PRESENT: Laura Cameron (LC), Alison Lyles (AL), Tricia McNicol (TM), Catsy Moffat (CM), Ashwyn Melmoth (AM), Kirsty Corbett (KC), Sarah Burrell (SB)	
APOLOGIES: Liz McCabe	
MATTERS ARISING:	ACTION
1.Minutes from last meeting	
Minutes were agreed as an accurate representation from the meeting on 28/2/22. Points from previous minutes: <u>Digital devices over summer</u> : there has been no update with regards to whether learners will have their digital devices over the summer holidays. This information will be shared once it becomes available. <u>Bottled water</u> : learners have been advised not to take bottled water unless it is required. Water bottles can be taken into the dining hall to cut down on waste. Further discussions about waste saving are still to be had between the school and catering department.	
2. School update:	
Laura Cameron gave an introduction and overview of herself to PC members as new Head Teacher at the school.	
<u>COVID update</u> : The school is now taking a COVID-sense approach in line with government & local authority recommendations. Risk assessments remain in place appropriate to the current situation. The staggered start and finish times have been stopped. There is a timetable underway to support the cessation of staggered breaks & lunchtimes. It has been noted that due to staggered break/lunches that most year groups have not had the	



<p>opportunity to form or continue friendships with the “other class” in their year group.</p> <p>The wearing of face coverings is still encouraged in the school but is not compulsory. There is no longer a requirement for staff to take bi-weekly LFTs. Warn and inform letters are no longer in place however stringent hand hygiene measures remain advised.</p>	
<p><u>Staffing:</u> Steven McBride has taken up his secondment as Acting Head Teacher at St Matthews/Sacred Heart Primary. An acting DHT has been recruited to Steven’s substantive post for the full scholastic year 2022-2023 – Kerry Dolan was the successful candidate and she will start her position in August 2022.</p> <p>Other staffing changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 EYPs (Bryony and Leigh) are finishing up in the ELC setting. School interviewing this week. • Amy Dolan (PT H&W) is due to start maternity leave before the end of the summer term. • Kirsty Byrne (youth worker) has been offered a post at community life long learning. <p>Other news: Congratulations to Hannah Matheson (P1 teacher) who got married over the Easter holidays.</p>	
<p><u>School priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital learning – chrome books went home last week. Clare Gately – digital learning technologist has been in the school regularly to support learners with their digital learning. • Nurture: Amy Dolan has set up a H&W library in the school as a health & wellbeing resource for learners and staff. The wellbeing area or “nest” has also transformed with new equipment/furniture to further support learners. • Literacy/numeracy: PM benchmarking has started within the school. This is a reading assessment to ascertain where gaps are in learning in order to support individuals who require support for learning. This is likely to be rolled out further within the school over next few terms. • Outdoor numeracy – the school is building in as many outdoor numeracy experiences as possible this term. 	



<p>“Grab & go bags have been set up as resource to support this.</p>	
<p><u>Bereavement support:</u> In light of recent bereavement within the school, there has been increased input from education psychology and also pastoral support from the church. Some staff will receive training in “Seasons for growth” to further support learners at this difficult time.</p>	
<p><u>Events/activities within the school:</u> There were a number of successful events that were held last term including world book day, red nose day, Bikeability and a visit from the Smoothie Bike. Parent consultations were conducted over the telephone which were well attended. Laura hopes these will return to face to face consultations next scholastic year. This term there are a number of events underway including P2/3 drumming & performance, P7 transition events, end of term assembly, P7 graduation, P7 camp & P5 skiing. Sports day planning is underway with an anticipated date of Friday 10th June. There was an attainment visit from the schools group manager earlier this term which received lots of positive feedback. The Early years transition is also underway which incorporates a Midlothian-wide approach with books/ preparation for transition to primary school. The ELC are starting to welcome families back in to the building for “stay and play” session.</p> <p>Tod the COVID snake of painted rocks is hoping to be installed at the parkside entrance to the school in due course. Community councillors are in support of this initiative.</p> <p>AL enquired if there will be any class trips happening for other year groups out-with the P7 transition events and whilst there will not be any formal trips planned, there will be other experiences that classes can expect this term.</p>	
<p><u>3. Outdoor spaces:</u> KC asked for an update about the outdoor spaces for the ELC/Newtongrange PS. LC agreed that the playground isn’t suitable for the number of children in the playground. Park is regularly utilised but this is an informal agreement. Need this to be explored with regards to formalising this. There has recently been a suitability study which also looked at the ELC outdoor space which had developments to the space which started but halted over COVID and LC hopes this will</p>	



<p>be completed as soon possible. Money is committed to develop the early years playground. There was some discussion about development of a plan for the playground with consultation with learners and also some discussion relating to what the PTA might be able to offer in terms of fundraising support alongside money committed from the local authority.</p>	
<p>4. PTA update: Currently there is £5900 in the PTA bank account. £1500 is money donated from the Coalfields Trust over 5 years ago. This money was previously ring fenced for creative activities within the school. It was agreed that this required further discussion that was best pushed forward for discussion at the PC AGM. The PTA are keen that the school considers any current resources that the school requires in order to spend some of the funds that are available to support current learners within the school. Some ideas muted included resources for outdoor spaces, P1 homework bags and P1 learning resources for role play. The idea of an annual £500 discretionary fund was raised by LC as a way to make paid school experiences more inclusive/ accessible for all learners. It was agreed that a voting poll should be set up to assess support of this initiative going forward with a quick turnaround to potentially support learners for the imminent P7 camp.</p>	<p>School to create a costed "wishlist"</p> <p>Parent council</p>
<p>Ideas for PTA fundraising events for next scholastic year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tears & tissues event; online too. • Halloween party • Christmas cards • Easter bake off • Easter bounce/sponsored event? • Gala day stall 	
<p>Date of next meeting: Annual General Meeting September 12th 2022. Details to be confirmed.</p>	