

Tynewater Primary School Parent Council – Meeting 80

Tuesday 29th September 2020 18.30 -19.45 hours
Online Teams Meeting

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Apologies, Thanks and Introductions

Apologies from Sally Barlow, Nicky Faux, Clare Lorimer and Anna Davanna

Present: Kirstie Broadfoot, Jane Brown, Julia Critchley, Emma Diffley, Matt Elliott, Laura Else, Annabel Kershaw, Douglas Lawson, Aurora Mancini, Jen Such.

2. Minutes of previous meeting - accepted.

a. Actions from last meeting

Photos to be taken of PC members (who are willing!) for the noticeboard, possibly at the Mix It Up Supper. Objective is to raise the visibility and accessibility of the parent council. People need to know who we are!

Event cancelled due to Covid pandemic

Decide on a date for Summer Fete. Proposed dates are 6th, 13th or 20th June (Saturday afternoons). Emma to request volunteers to commit in the next few days. Emma also to convene a meeting of said volunteers in the next couple of weeks

Event cancelled due to Covid pandemic

Mr Lawson to provide a quote for 1 iPad so we can establish how many we have funds to buy for the school.

TBC

Emma to cost replacement nets for the basketball hoops in the MUGA

Nets cost around £10 from Amazon

Mr Lawson to provide quotations for the playground markings, although on figures so far it is possible that this is not good value for money. Chalk might be more cost effective.

Postponed due to Covid

Anna to supply a list of names of people on the Facebook Group who no longer have children at the school. Emma to remove from Group.

Done

Emma to investigate Instagram and Twitter as alternative channels for the PC to reach the Parent Forum.

Instagram account set up but not activated or used. Nothing yet to post.

ALL to promote Mix It Up Supper on class WhatsApp groups and wherever another opportunity might arise.

Event cancelled due to Covid pandemic

b. Matters arising: minimal recent activity due to current circumstances and restrictions. Noted the Easter Egg competition held in April. Discussion required over playground

markings and basketball nets.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Mr Lawson described the colossal volumes and variety of work he and the school staff have undertaken since March, accommodating the demands of rapidly changing guidelines, including the set up and operation of the school hubs between 20 March and August 2020. Tynewater was more fortunate than many schools in having Seesaw already established, which assisted the implementation of some home learning since school closed. Return to school has gone well, working within lots of highly restrictive guidelines including seating and food in classrooms (lunchtimes are difficult to supervise to accommodate staff lunch breaks).

Teaching and learning is going well. Staff are identifying individual children's needs. Children and staff are delighted to be back with only a handful struggling, who are receiving appropriate support. A commendation is noted for all staff who are doing a tremendous job keeping track of all the children and their different stages. This is a real team effort.

There was a health issue in the first two weeks of term which subsided reasonably quickly.

Parent - Teacher consultations will be by telephone this term. Assembly will be held in school using Teams on Friday 2 October, with each class in their respective classrooms. This will be the first assembly since 20 March. P7 will give a harvest presentation before the October break.

Noted that last year's P7 (June 2020 leavers) are still regarded as part of the Tynewater PS community until a suitable celebration can be organised for them, as and when guidelines permit. The Parent Council provided certificate frames for their End of Year certificates in June.

4. Discussion:

- a. How the Parent Council can continue to support the school, pupils, parents/carers and staff

Mr Lawson suggested that small gestures such as thank you cards/notes from parents and/or children would be hugely appreciated by the staff. **Action on all.**

- b. Fundraising possibilities

Limited possibilities at the moment. Emma expressed hesitation in asking people to give money at a time when financial hardship is becoming increasingly widespread in every community.

Suggestion for a "100 Club" - 'members' purchase a number (or numbers) for a set price per year (per number) and each month a draw is held to win a cash prize. Gambling Commission rules need to be checked.

Matt suggested that the Village Hall's recent experiences with live streaming events might be of use to us. Suggestion of a carol singing event nearer Christmas.

c. Possible events/activities for children

Anna sent in a suggestion for a pumpkin carving/decorating competition, similar to the Easter Egg competition. This can be done online.

Laura reminded us that the school garden and raised beds are still in need of attention. Is this something the PC and parents/carers could help with? ACTION: Mr Lawson to check what the guidelines might allow given that this is an outdoor activity.

d. Second hand uniform

There is still second hand uniform available but not huge demand for it. There is now a Midlothian Uniform Swap Facebook page which parents can use for both branded and non-branded uniform. Given the lack of accessible storage, no additional items are being collected. Without any demand this doesn't seem worthwhile at the moment.

5. AOB

Aurora reminded us that the PC bank balance stands at £4943. Suggestions for purchases were gazebos for outdoor learning, garden furniture and library resources.

P7 hoodies were successfully ordered and distributed on the first day of term.

Annabel requested clarification on the wearing of masks in the school playground as per the letter from NHS Lothian circulated today. Mr Lawson said that staff would be wearing masks outdoors from tomorrow. Julia suggested that this was something we could do to support the school and the staff.

6. Meeting Close 19:30

Next meeting: AGM online Thursday 29th October 18.30 - 19.30. Nominations for Parent Council members welcome by Friday 23rd October 2020/

Note: if you have an issue you wish to be raised at a Parent Council meeting, please email us on tynewaterparentcouncil@gmail.com, speak to a parent council member or hand a note into school reception. All parents and guardians of children at the school are welcome to attend the meeting.