

Moorfoot Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and Parent-Teacher Group (PTG)

Thursday 5 November, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom

In attendance: John Dagger (JD), Headteacher; Clare Howard (CH), Chair; Lynsey Halliday (LH), Treasurer; Sarah Anderson (SA), Secretary; Cath Baker; Katie Gladstone; Lisa Hobson; Richard Holborn

- AGENDA
- 1. Headteacher update
- 2. Chair update - Midlothian Council PTA chair meeting
- 3. Parent engagement
- 4. Finance
- 5. Fundraising
- 6. AOB

- Headteacher update

JD updated the meeting on new Covid-19 signage outside school. Teachers will now wear face-coverings at all times apart from in nursery and p1/p2. Children are welcome to wear masks if they wish.

Residents from the new houses at Moorfoot Meadow have asked parents not to park on their road when dropping pupils off and collecting them as it is a maintained private road.

It is hoped to start PE indoors again but health and safety aspects are still being assessed. Children might want to bring an extra vest or jumper if they are too cold.

Staff have begun accelerated reader training and children in p4-7 have completed their star reader assessments. The library has been categorised and gaps are being identified. The school is developing digital skills for homework as Seesaw replaces the old paper homework diaries.

The school is using Google Drive and Google Classrooms. As part of the contingency plan, the school has one week's worth of lessons ready. Teachers will post three activities every day and three things per term for each child's journal, which can be accessed through Seesaw Family.

Mrs Melvin and Gillian will now assist Classes 1-2 and 3-4, respectively, full-time, thanks to the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). Additionally, Lynne Webb will work for six hours in Class 4 two days per week. The remaining money will provide support for learning and the Accelerated Reader programme as Moorfoot Primary needs to bring its reading level up.

ACTION: Can parents please stop parking in the new Moorfoot Meadows estate?

ACTION: Can parents please use Seesaw for informal messages to teachers but use school office for formal correspondence?

It was agreed that the PTG would fund a Sumdog subscription for the school, subject to cost.

A donation towards the Brunton pantomime and ice creams was agreed.

- Chair update - Midlothian Council PTA chair meeting

Midlothian Council are holding meetings for PTA chairs. The experience of lockdown teaching was varied across Scotland. Midlothian Council has been discussing video use with the unions; it is developing a parent engagement strategy and has set up webinars on Google Classroom and Seesaw. The National Parent Forum of Scotland also has lots of guidance for parents. Computer and internet access can be arranged for families struggling with access.

Support from the school and PTA for parents of children with additional support needs was discussed. Some parents might not be aware of what the school can do to help. The PTA is happy to help support this too.

ACTION: School to make parents aware of what they can provide for children with additional support needs.

Action: CH/JD to share pdf of powerpoints from Midlothian Council via school app.

Action: CH to invigorate mailing list so parents can access all information.

- Treasurer report LH

Balance is £480.39. All money requested by school last year has been paid. Ceilidh float from February 2020 is yet to be received.

There are few trips taking place, although there may be more by the summer. Fundraising ideas included a 100 club, a duck race and the Miller Homes community fund. Some families may prefer to provide a donation for the year if they are too busy to take part in fundraising.

ACTION: JD to advise how much money is required for library in order to inform fundraising target for year.

It was decided to make festive classroom windows and for children to design festive mugs and Christmas cards.

- AOB

The children's attainment levels and mental wellbeing were discussed. JD said that the children had done very well, that there was a remarkable level of engagement during lockdown and that the school had assessed children via progression pathways showing that for the majority, there has been very little obvious disruption to attainment and little need to engage for health and wellbeing.

There are also resources available for staff wellbeing. It is difficult to get used to the changes because there are many updates; teachers are looking after their own children and trying to keep going too. Children are probably more adaptable than adults are.

JD was asked if parents could have a synopsis of what staff are doing so in class in relation to mental health so that they can mirror what's going on at home.

ACTION: JD to ask teachers to put out a newsletter/curriculum slides covering in-class tools and teaching for mental health.