St Ronan's Parent Partnership Virtual Meeting

Thursday 19 November 2020

Minutes

Attendees: Catriona McKinnon, Caroline Elsey, Jac Rorie, Katharine Cotter, Russell Young, Liz Kerr, Andrew Thomson, Fiona Williams, Jane Shoesmith, Jo Gaffney, Kate McMillan, Jilly Johnstone, Sandi Caine, James Paterson.

Apologies: Vee Dobie

Action by
CE
CE
CE/RY
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Collegiate after school sessions, meetings and our upcoming In-service are all focussed on

taking forwards key elements of our Improvement Plan. Virtual professional learning has been available to staff with a focus on—Writing, Learning and Teaching and use of the I-Pads to support this in classes. The SIP has taken longer to confirm as we took steps to complete some additional self-evaluation to ensure the priorities we were including were the right ones for the context we find ourselves in. Plan has now been finalised. Visit 1 from QIO was incredibly positive and confirmed our evaluation of where we are and what the priorities for improvement are. Both Dawn and Jan joined me for that discussion to ensure collective ownership and understanding of that self-evaluation visit. The plan will be available on the school website.

We continue to work with Cluster colleagues in our shared priorities and recently have benefited as a staff from attending cluster training on use of the I-Pads as well as a newly formed Early Years Network.

Evidence of the positivity in school at the moment could be clearly seen at our recent In-Service Days. Incredibly impressed as I have been repeatedly since June of the commitment held by all staff to improving learning and teaching. ALL staff (teaching and non-teaching) joined for session on Learning, Teaching and Assessment on Thursday and Nurture on Friday. We further developed our guidance recently developed for the teaching of writing and took part in further research into how children learn. St Ronan's Primary is in very strong place with regard to LTA framework, 4 part model and we now look to align this with SBC Framework for LTA and ongoing professional learning.

P7 Residential

Looking into extending work happening with John Muir award and local area, seeking input for outdoor education to plans similar activities as those that would be experienced as part of a residential. Mrs Huxley is able to provide refunds to those P7 families last year that paid their £20 cash for spending money. We are looking to see how to get in touch with those families to make the necessary arrangements to transfer money.

Year Book - update.

Mrs Anderson had taken on responsibility for this and remains unwell. She has very kindly been in touch with the progress made. Company are still keen to produce this for us and we now need to get in touch with a few families to get some additional info from the P7s. A few of the photos are showing as low resolution although we will be able to produce something.

Thank you to the PTA and I am looking forward to the meeting on Monday.

The PTA Halloween celebrations were a really lovely event in the midst of current restrictions. Tea towel and Christmas card sales have gone well.

Groups painting stone for rotary garden with Alex –It was great to be able to have a small number of children able to take part in an activity for community benefit again.

Assemblies continue virtually in school with our recent one focussing on BookWeek Scotland celebrations.

Art Club- P6 only continues.

Breakfast and ASC still well attended.

Attainment Meetings with staff took place last month and again really high quality dialogues about pupil progress and plans to revisit in December.

Learning Journals —as part of reporting to parents we shall ensure that all children have a Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing comment by the end of the year. This is scheduled for a discussion later in the agenda.

New Nursery Build progresses well. We are now at the planning to moving ins stage with the ordering of new resources about to start. Communication will go out to families soon regarding our plans for January and our move, over time, to the new building.

Thank you all again for your continued partnership working for your school, it really is very much appreciated by us all.	
Update from SBC Parent Chairs Meeting — KC attended the virtual meeting on the same day. There were 2 main themes of note:	
Outdoor Space: It was announced that there is a pot of cash for schools to access for capital equipment. Only criteria is that it must be for a minimum of £5K and that the funds must be allocated to a project that adds value to the School Estate. Following this rationale an outdoor shelter or building would meet the criteria but play equipment would not. The deadline for receiving applications is January	
Action CE and CL to discuss where the need is greatest and develop an outline of a capital investment project.	CE
COVID Update: KC fed back that SBC had so far had very few cases of Covid within Schools and were held up as an exemplar. A positive message to take away!	
Communications to Parents	
<u>Parent Consultations</u> – CM gave summary of options under discussion for parent consultations. The preferred mode would be telephone but it was unlikely to be possible to schedule this into teacher's work load plans before Christmas. It may be possible to do so for Walkerburn and perhaps even the St R nursery children due to smaller numbers. CE shared her experiences of telephone based parent consultations at her current School and was very positive about the experience from staff and families. One unexpected and positive outcome was the higher participation rates than a "normal" parent consultation.	
Action – decision on parent consultations and learning journal outputs to be communicated to parents	CE
<u>Learning Grids</u> – A discussion was had on Learning Grids and how useful they were. There were differences of opinion amongst the group but a consensus was reached that clearer messaging over what was compulsory/core homework and what was optional, along with hand in dates would be beneficial to all.	
Action – CM/CE to review communication of Learning Grids	CE
Social Media/Website – RY has been updating the website and deleting old links. JR asked the group for feedback on the potential use of closed Facebook groups organised around each class to be owned by and for parents of pupils in the class. These would be unofficial and run in a similar way currently run by PHS parents. CE shared her experiences of using SM to communicate with parents. It was agreed that a follow up meeting between CE,JR and RY should be held in New Year to develop clearly delineated comms channels with distinct audiences and purposes. This would then be communicated to all parents who could opt in if they wished to. This meeting should also look at which apps were the SBC recommended model i.e. Expressions or Connect Us.	
Action – JR, CE and RY to discuss in New Year and bring to next PP meeting for sign off	CE/JR/RY
PTA Update	
£1300 has been raised by Xmas tea towels and cards so far. Sponsorship has been secured from Glendinnings to hold a Christmas Prize Draw Plans are afoot for an outdoors sponsored event in the Spring, possibly a Marathon Fundraiser	

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 21st January at 7:30pm	