RATHO PRIMARY SCHOOL
RATHO SCHOOL VOICE
Minutes of Meeting on Thursday 19th November 2020
at 7pm on Microsoft Teams

Present: Leanne Chalmers (LC), Emily McMorris (EM), Chris Welander (CW), Carol Nicholson, Sam Mitchell, Lizzie Booden, Huma Barrie, Izzy Denizyaran, Jen Adams, Morag Barr, Katrina Fitzpatrick, Claire Cooper, Dannii Reid, Jenny Longden

1. Welcome

- Welcome and thank you from LC and EM to everybody that attended

2. Head Teachers Update

- Staffing
    - Miss Forrest has been back on a phased basis and will be back full time
    - Two new PSA roles to work on Fridays have been advertised and the first round of interviews were carried out today
    - Staff absence in the current circumstances has been an issue but the school has been lucky to have Yvonne McComb as supply staff
    - CEC are appointing some Closing the Gap teachers across the region, Yvonne has been allocated to Ratho on Wednesday and Thursday, she will be in St Margaret's RC on Monday and Tuesday and will alternate between the two schools on Fridays, however all CtG teachers will have to cover absences during COVID-19 19
    - New Head Teacher has been appointed this week, Peter Gibb from St Marys Leith RC Primary. His start date is to be confirmed and once it has CW will be meeting with him via Teams to start transition
- **Christmas**
    - Parties will be held in class bubbles in the community centre hall, week commencing 14th December. Wrapped food and juice will be provided
    - Virtual Santa will be visiting nursery – P2 pupils via Teams, currently arranging some videos to show him dropping off sacks of presents to their buildings. Each child will receive a book.
    - Claire Dixon has been doing an excellent job of sourcing decorations for the school. A 7ft tree will be put up under the outdoor shelter, there will be smaller trees around the school as well as lots or garland, tinsel, etc
    - Each child will be making a tree decoration to put on the communal tree

    - A virtual panto will be broadcast to each child from the Brunton Theatre on Thursday 10th December, a £3 per child donation has been added to each child's Parent Pay account
    - The Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper day will also be on Thursday 10th December
    - During the last week of term, the school is hoping to arrange an online event with the church minister doing carols by sign language
- Home Learning
    - This has been a huge task and learning curve for the school and staff
    - There has been a good uptake from the pupils on Teams
    - There is still work to be done on making sure every child has access to a device they can access Teams through, some have been given an invitation to homework club so they can use school devices
    - School looking at Digital forms and Microsoft 10 for going forward
    - The online platform that the council and schools use has to be secure to ensure blended learning
- Road Safety
    - Due to the one way system that has been implemented for leaving school a lot of kids are being funnelled on to North Street
    - A P7 and P3 PSA have been tasked with monitoring North Street at the end of day
    - The Junior Road Safety Team have been looking at walk to school promotions to tie this into the issues due to the changes
    - Some Hallcroft residents have reported speeding cars through their streets at drop off and pick up time, the school will highlight this problem to parents and ask them to drive more safely

3. Home Learning from the Parents/Carers Point of View

- Some parents have been asking about feedback on how the different way of working is going and how others have been finding it
- CN explained the process they have been following while one nursery class had to self isolate
    - CEC have created centralised resources for when teachers are not able to give face to face teaching. Each days learning covers literacy, numeracy and one other curriculum activity.
    - Each days assignments are posted the night before, so parents have time to prepare for the next day
    - A teacher checks at 9.30am for any questions that need replies
    - A story is uploaded during the day
    - A teacher checks again at lunch and at the end of the day
- Some parents are not seeing all the Teams updates, there is a way for individuals to update their profile so alerts will be received when things are posted.
- Class Reps will remind their Facebook page to check their child's Teams account

4. Road Safety from the Community Point of View

- Kieran Shaw (RSVs Community Council Rep) has been working with the council to put a proposal to the Council Spaces for People to assess the new situation suggesting
    - New signage either side of the path entrance alerting drivers to children crossing
    - Temporary double yellow lines at the crossing

  This was submitted on Friday 6th November

5. Additional Support Needs Group Update

- A document from Fran Platt (ASL Service Leader) has been received and posted on the ASN and RSV Facebook pages for any comments and/or suggestions
- A survey is being done with the 34 members of the ASN page, so far, the findings show 30% of kids need ASN. Once the information has been collated it will be fed back to the new Headteacher and the school management team. The plan is to regroup in January to share information and discuss the way forward

6. Fundraising

- The Christmas Fair can obviously not take place this month, in the past this has raised around £4K
- Other Christmas fundraising activities will be launching on the 30th of November, these are
    - Luxury Prize Draw – local companies have been very generous and currently the prizes include – a hamper, tickets to Britannia, passes to Conifox, an overnight stay from Balerno Inn, £50 Bridge Inn voucher, voucher from No22, voucher form Copperhead, 3 bottles of whisky, a leather satchel bag, a reflexology voucher and an Osbourne book bundle. A just Giving page has been created for people to buy tickets (£5 each) over a two week period, this will close on 11th December and a draw will be recorded and posted online
- Barrel of Booze – lots of bottles have already been collected in four different areas of the village so there will be four prizes, tickets will be by cash with the winners drawn on Saturday the 12th of December
- The online market is still not decided upon. So far, we only have 5 retailers interested in paying to advertise on our Facebook page
- Cash Lottery – Claire Cooper is organising and ensuring we have the correct gambling license in place to run. Hoping to run during the first week of December and if it goes well then, the week before the holiday break. If this cannot be organised before Christmas is may be something to run through the year
- All activities will be open to the whole village and not just on the RSV page

7. AOB

- Some parents have been asking if we can do a virtual Meet the Teacher as some don't know what their child's teacher looks like. CW will liaise with the staff about this as not all like to have their photos used. Was suggested they put it on the class Teams page which is a closed forum
- It was asked if there are any plans for the P7 leavers – Stacey O'Flaherty and Andrew from CEC have been speak to the Scouts outdoor learning team to see if a 3 day on site activity can be arranged in leu of the P7 camp which cannot go ahead, this will be dependant on a lots of variables still to be assessed
    - Insurance
    - COVID-19 case/isolation
    - Cost if it has to be cancelled

  CW hopes to be able to give an update before Christmas
- All transition activities will be confirmed as soon as they have been agreed

8. Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday date in January/February to be confirmed