RSV AGM Minutes
Thursday 3rd March 2022 7pm (virtually)

Present: Leanne Chalmers (LC), Emily McMorris (EM), Peter Gibb (PG), Lynne Smith (LS), Charlie Roy (CR), Emma Mowat (EM), Jayne Crow (JC)

Minutes:

1. Welcome – EM

2. Head teacher Update
   - Covid Regulations:
     - parents only to enter school on essential business;
     - insofar as regulations go, it would be possible to hold future RSV meetings at the Community Centre or Bridge;
     - LC to confirm whether next meeting will be in person or online;
     - RPS remains cautious about Covid but hoping for whole school assemblies after Easter.

   - A Covid spike was noted in late August and after Christmas among staff and pupils. In February a spike was noted in staff.

   - The return to school from February half term has presented staffing challenges (9 members of staff in 9 days). Staff have been deployed & SMT have stepped in to cover as appropriate. Non-Contact Time has been paused to ensure consistent staffing.

   - External providers have delivered activities: Simon Says Dance; Touch Rugby & Judo via *Active Schools*; Dogs Trust; the Ratho Library Team; SSPCA visit scheduled; and the "*Hub For Success"* from Napier University have been providing opportunities for Looked After Children.

- Enhanced transition is in place for 12 children moving from P7 to Balerno;

- Nursery to P1 transition programme will take place;

- RPS awarded a STEM Nation Award – led by Mrs Dixon;

- RPS to achieve another Green Flag led by the Eco Team;

- The revival of dress down days and house points has been welcomed.

- Across school reinforcement of school values: a focus on *kindness*, initially appears successful.

- Progress is being made in the deployment of *Restorative Practice* "how would you treat others?"

- CURRICULUM:
    - RHSP: rolled out to all classes bar p4/5 due to staffing issues;
    - SfL: a rundown has been sent. L Smith has oversight. No replacement for Mrs Humphries in school year 21/22;
    - GIRFEC: a challenge due to staffing issues however being met nonetheless;
    - Reporting: 5 learning journals for each pupil by the end of term;
    - Assessments: standardised assessments for all classes in the 2nd week of Term 3, with P1, P4 and P7 taking the national standard. These tests ascertain whether the pupils are on track, and to guide the teachers in their planning and if lockdowns & covid had affected their progress; PG to confirm whether tests have been adjusted post Covid. SNSAs were not administered for P1 last year.

- The school is following up with Tempest for class and pupil photographs. Parent volunteers (2 x 3 slots) will be asked to assist;

- Hoping to get a “Little Library” as organised by Alison Mcluckie: awaiting a meeting & visit with the Council Risk Assessor at the behest of the Community Centre. A design has been finalised & winner announced.

- RPS has been approached for involvement in the Canal Bicentennial celebrations on 21 May;

- Eco initiatives across the school are progressing well;

- Nursery / Library build has been delayed due to new council policies for buildings. A complete report is available on the council website;

- Parent / Teacher consultations will take place by phone on w/c 24 May;

- Nursery offer letters will be issued in the first week of April;

- RPS approved for 11 classes in 22/23 which will be include composites P1/2, P3/4, P5/6 and 2 P7 classes;

- Group call tariff has been changed so SMT reviewing usage.

3. Parent/carer questions:
   - Homework on short weeks:
     a. homework policy, developed in consultation with parents four years ago, states homework runs Mon-Mon and not on short weeks. This allows for homework to be completed at the weekend if it suits families. At present an increase would not be workable in tandem with the policy. At present, the quantity of homework issued is appropriate, however engagement with homework – currently issued through TEAMS – is low. The grid system allows for a variety of ways to engage with the homework – LS to ensure grids are updated termly by class teachers. For interested parents & carers there is a large amount of additional resources available on the school website. The possibility of a common words booklet was floated.

- Supporting the people of Ukraine:
    a. the school is supportive in principle of fundraising endeavors. The children are generally aware of the situation as it has been raised and discussed in class following episodes of *Newsround* and teachers are working to support understanding as appropriate. As this is a fluid situation, it was agreed that it might appropriate to support the work of an organisation such as the Red Cross.

- School crossing patrol:
    a. the School Crossing Patrol person is on extended sick leave. Edinburgh Council only provide cover on the first day and thereafter it is the parent or carer's responsibility to ensure their children walk to school safely. The Council may provide an emergency School Crossing Patrol Person on an ad hoc basis should there be availability.

4. Fundraising
    - Teachers to assist in distributing a paper plate to interested children for a £1 contribution each. The pupils decorate the plates on the theme of spring / Easter.

    - Christmas fundraising:
        - Cards & mugs £560
        - Calendars & magnets £1200
        - Luxury raffle £845
        - Barrow of Booze £1060
        - TOTAL £3665
        - Nicola Gillan has offered to lead on Calendars & Magnets for 22/23 with an earlier lead time.
            - PG + SMT + RSV extend their gratitude to all involved from the parent body and from RSV, SMT for their good efforts on behalf of the school.

- Requests:
    - Nursery looking for an outdoor speaker £150. RSV have agreed to met half the cost, Nursery to raise for other half;
    - Mrs Brown (p1) has personally been buying pants & socks for the younger classes. RSV to purchase pants & socks and organise a thank you card / token of appreciation for Mrs Brown. PG to ask staff what items are needed and to purchase from Crazy Hair Day fund. PG to include in the newsletter a request for clothes donations (clothes, uniform, pants & socks) as well as a Christmas Jumper call out for Christmas jumper day 2022.
    - Request for new board games for the Treetops room;
    - Discussion on possibilities for improvements of communal/general purpose spaces within school, including the library and STEM hub.
    - Poor drainage in playground – while a longer term investigation is need to fully resolve the issue, replanting trees will help to absorb water. CGI are already to provide trees.
    - A number of playground improvement initiatives are under way however re-painting is needed. PG suggests that Covid regulations allowing a "family fun day" to paint the school could be an effective solution.
    - A larger number of P7s will be going to camp in Oct 2022 – the RSV will support this, including the cost of coach travel.

5. AOB
    a. Edinburgh City Council is rolling out 1 to 1 iPads from P6 to upwards. Pupils will take their iPads from P6 to S2 then hand them back to be refurbed, and be given a new one from S3 to S6. Refurbed iPads will then be given to the younger years Nursery – P5. Ratho expects to receive the ipads by December 2022.

Next Meeting Thursday 7th April 7pm (location TBC)