RSV Meeting
Thursday 21st March 2024
Teams, 8pm
Minutes

Present Emily McMorris (EM), Emily Turnbull (ET), Peter Gibb (PG), Nadee Wijesurendra (NW), Lindsay Morris (LM), Charlie Roy (CR), Emma Mowat (EM), Nathalie Dubanowski (ND)

Apologies Lisa Douglas

1. Headteacher Update

- February RSV meeting was postponed.
- Notable School Events since last meeting
  - P3 and P4 Assembly
  - Ratho Action Group Presentation
  - Very successful World Book Day, thank you to parents/carers who supported this event especially those who came in to read to the children
  - Neurodiversity Celebration Week/World Down's Syndrome Day
  - Netball Team took part in competition at Meadowbank
  - 2 P7 Teams competed in the Balerno and Currie Rotary Club Quiz. They came 1st and 2nd. The winning team will progress to the next round.
  - Cross-country races at Saughton Park
  - Violinists played at the Usher Hall
  - Music Lessons with the YMI have started across the school
  - Generation Science Workshops have taken place
  - Tempest whole class photos
  - Fantastic P5/6 Spring Show 'Aladdin'. Congratulations to everyone involved, the show was enjoyed by 170 guests over 2 performances
- Upcoming Events
  - Empowered Learning Thematic Review 22nd March. Request from PG for RSV to ask for parent volunteers to attend the session. EM will put a post on the RSV FB page tonight
  - All pupils in P3-P7 will be asked to complete a Pupil Wellbeing Survey before the Easter Break
  - Family Consultations next week, PG very pleased with the number of families that will be attending. Families will be asked to complete a feedback form which PG has asked the RSV to promote
  - PG will be gathering feedback from pupils/teachers/families regarding the use of The Padlet App across P1, P1/2, P2, P7a and P7b
- PG thanked the RSV for funding the purchase of Julia Donaldson's Songbirds Books (Oxford Phonics Collection Set).
- The price per head for the P7 camp trip to Lagganlia has increased but a £900 grant from the John Watson's Trust will cover this so there will be no additional costs to parents.
- The school will borrow the Community Centre minibus and hire a 25 seater coach for the transition visits to Balerno High School significantly reducing the cost to the school. PG may ask the RSV to contribute to the payment.

2. Parent Questions

- How many classes will there be next session?
  - PG reports there will be 10 classes next session (there are currently 11).
  - PG is disappointed with the decision from the council as he had outlined his reasoning for staying with 11 classes. He met with The Quality Improvement Education Officer and appealed the decision.
  - There will be a P1, P1/2, P2, P3, P3/4, P4, P5, P6, P6/7 and P7.
  - There will be implications in terms of staffing. Members of the RSV expressed sadness at the prospect of losing valuable members of teaching staff.
  - Children have not been allocated to classes yet.
  - CR predicts concern from parents regarding the change in classes particularly from P7 parents.
  - ET expressed concern regarding a larger P5 class size and what this will mean for ASN pupils.

- PG understands the disappointment/concerns some parents may have and will seek to reassure families.
- ET asked if it would be worthwhile coordinating a parent response/objection to the changes. PG suggested the RSV write a letter to him which he can take to the council. ET will take the lead on this.

- Is there an update on the new Nursery building?
  - Unofficially, there will be an extension to the mid May completion deadline.
  - PG thinks to is unlikely the Nursery will be open before August as once building completed the Care Inspectorate will need to sign off both the indoor and outdoor space.
  - Donna Murray, Head of Early Years Team and Robbie Crockett met with Contractors last month. They did not meet with PG or anyone from the school.

- Does the school know anything about a change to nursery funding within Edinburgh Council?
  - Parents at Angela Elizabeth Nursery (West Lothian) have been informed that Edinburgh Council may not fund nursery places in neighbouring councils in the future.
  - PG was unaware of this change and will take the question to the Early Years Team.

- Will the path running between the new Nursery building and the Community Woodland be repaired/upgraded?
  - PG assumes that this will be repaired as part of the landscaping of the new building.
  - PG will ask the question when he next meets with Clark Contracts.

- Will there be a new member of staff starting in the nursery to replace Mrs Lebik?
  - Mrs Lebik leaves next week as she is taking up a permanent post at another setting.
  - PG reports that 2 Early Years Assistants will start after the Easter holidays.
  - A Senior Early Years Officer has been recruited but remains in her current post until the new nursery opens.
  - Jen Longden was appointed as the new Nursery Administrator.
  - Recruitment for the new nursery is ongoing. Once appointed, staff will remain in their current posts or be redeployed within Edinburgh Council until the new nursery opens.
  - Miss Cook is planning to return part-time following her Maternity Leave.

- Nursery parents concerned about the sewage truck entering school grounds at pick up times and blocking nursery exit
  - PG will raise this concern with Clark Contracts.

3. Summer Fundraising

- EM suggested a number of fundraising ideas for the summer term;
  - Sports Day BBQ
  - Sponsored Colour Run
  - Sponsored Obstacle Course/Scooter Run
- General consensus amongst those in attendance was that the Sports Day BBQ was a great event last year and as a lot of parents are at the school anyway it is likely to get a good turnout.
- EM suggests expanding the event to include a bake sale/ice cream stand/face painting/tattoos etc but highlights the need for volunteers to make the event a success
- PG will take the idea of including a 'Soak the Teacher' event to the staff
- PG, ET, CR and LM offered help on the day
- EM will put together a flyer/FB post with details of the event, volunteers required and fundraising aim (new white boards in every classroom)

Date of next meeting Thursday 2nd May 2024 venue and time TBC