

## **Kirknewton Primary School Parent Council meeting minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

**Present:** Pip Shiels, Fiona Wright, Barbara Dunlop, Adele Murphy, Turid Engstrom, Laura Stew, Sarah McNee, Lyndsey Robertson, Amanda Blainey, Julie Thynne

**Apologies:** Kirsten Patience, Victoria Guthrie, Sara Shaw

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

**2. Approval of last minutes:** approved

**3. Head Teacher's update** (Barbara Dunlop & Adele Murphy)

Nursery staffing update: Miss Winchester and Miss Murphy have left the nursery; Mrs Thomson joined (and is soon to change from full time to part time); Miss Tomlinson has just started; we are currently interviewing for a temporary position.

Passion projects: children have enjoyed taking a leadership role – for example, reading clubs, feeding the birds, taking care of the playground, improving the lunch hall.

Social enterprise: for this term, we have had people in the school for training in running a social enterprise (every class has had the training now); each year group will do a different social enterprise – could be this term or later in the year, but planning will be over the next part of this term.

My Primary (to start after Christmas): looking at the wider curriculum, there will be a Friday morning option to sign up to workshop of child's choice; any parents who wish to offer skills to run these would be welcome, for example: STEM, drama, crafts.

Rookie Rockstars – a group will come into school to work with children, with a focus on self-esteem, confidence, respect, anti-bullying, through the medium of music. Parents will be invited to a concert on 7<sup>th</sup> December to hear songs children have learned over the three days, information will be sent out about that; cost of tickets has been kept as low as possible and will be £6 per person.

Garden: raised beds have been created and lots planted with help of parents and the Big Dig. Sadly over the holidays somebody had picked and smashed pumpkins that had been grown, which was very disappointing for the children. A local community member with an allotment has offered an opportunity for some of the children to go down and harvest some of their produce and bring it back to the school and do some cooking with that, with Mrs Duffy. Some discussions have been had about security at the back of the school, if anybody within the community has thoughts on that the school would be open to hear.

Gardening club: next ones are on 8<sup>th</sup> November & 6<sup>th</sup> December; school can facilitate if some children want to attend but the parent/carer cannot attend, please contact the school in that case.

P1 transition feedback: this was very positive for the most part. Children coming from nurseries outside of KPS felt that they didn't have as much information as they could have. Thanks to all who gave feedback.

#### **4. Answers to questions/points raised in advance (Kirsten Patience)**

From p4:

Q: We used to get weekly updates and what would be taught next week on Seesaw from the teacher. Why do we no longer receive this?

A: Unfortunately, WLC only have Seesaw for P1 - P3 and we are unable to use from then onwards. From P4 - P7, the teachers will send out a termly Sway detailing the learning for the term. These are due to come to parents/carers on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

From p6:

Q: Concerns about vapes being found in school and parents vaping in playground from lower school. Could it be noted that this is not appropriate. Will there be an education session for P6 regarding vaping? Although parents understand its about the discussions at home too.

A: Vaping is not currently part of the P6 curriculum. However, it is taught at P7 level through a resource called Fast Forward. I will send a reminder to all parents that smoking, be it vapes or cigarettes, is not appropriate within the school playgrounds. I will also ask the staff to be vigilant and approach anyone doing this in the playground.

From p7:

Q: Previously parents were sent termly an outline of topics/learning that was going to be covered. Is this something that could still be done as it was really useful for those of us who have children that do not share much information about their learning!

A: These are due to be shared on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

#### **5. Updates from Sub groups**

Health and wellbeing will meet (with Mrs Dunlop) within the next couple of weeks Mrs Patience has met with After School club group – it would be great to draw on knowledge and skills of people within the community, volunteers are very welcome. Mrs Murphy has met with the Equality for Everybody group – lots of ideas were shared and identified large range of possibilities for educating the children and wider school community and developing resources within the school, likely to run over at least a couple of years. The 100 years group is to meet in a couple of weeks' time, it would be good if more parents want to get involved with this

#### **6. PSA update**

PSA will continue after lots of volunteers came forward to be part of PSA & first meeting has been held. First event was the Halloween sale, thanks to all who gave donations and attended. Now working on the Christmas cards, orders to be placed by next week. AGM will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, in the Green Room – everyone is

welcome & people who would like to volunteer at PSA events are invited to let us know.

## **7. Wee updates** (Barbara Dunlop & Pip Shiels)

Plicker/Qwiqr – two forms of feedback the school is currently trialling;

- Plicker will be used in class – a quick way for staff to be able to identify how different learners are getting on with a topic;
- Qwiqr – based on a QR code, on a sticker, can record audio feedback; will try using it during parent consultations during the target setting session.

Walking bus: this is going well on a Friday morning, with high visibility jackets, run by parents who are PVG checked; if anybody wants to join please get in contact with the school office.

Head teacher drop in: this will be once a month, and is a great opportunity to speak with the leadership team and/or with other parents, and to enjoy a warm drink served by some of the children. The next session will be Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

## **8. Significant dates in the next half-term**

Reminder to [check the school website](#) for information about events and dates

## **9. AOCB**

Parent Council had a social in September, it was great to see lots of people there. We will aim to run a social at the beginning of the academic year in future years.

### **Next Parent Council meeting:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 8pm on Zoom, details below:

Topic: Kirknewton Parent Council's Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting – sent in a Group Call