

PC Meeting 25th March 2024

Present: Philippa Shiels, Fiona Wright, Kirsten Patience, Laura Stew, Julie Thynne, Angela Herkes, Barbara McDonald, Sarah McNee, Adele Murphy, Victoria Guthrie, Lyndsey Robertson

Apologies: Turid Engstrom, Sara Shaw

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Approval of previous minutes: approved

3. Head Teacher update

Staffing:

Miss Baird will stay with us as she has achieved a permanent post. Mrs Broadfoot has started in the nursery. Mrs Duff has started in the primary school, filling in for Mrs Walkingshaw and Mrs Fairnie who are absent at the moment.

Validated Self-Evaluation:

The Validated Self-Evaluation took place at end of January and was very positive and successful. What came across strongly was the ethos of the school community and our values. There was a strength in the opportunities we provide for our learners, and how voice and choice is very strong. Supporting the success of our learners. Efforts we put into our learning walls over the past couple of years. Consistency of our approaches in terms of learning, teaching and assessment. Commented on work with WC High School in numeracy and maths, which is beginning to improve outcomes for children across the school. Recognised the efforts teachers across the school make. Inclusive curriculum was commended.

Things that we are still working on that were recognised as needs:

- A more consistent approach for formative assessment across the school; need to firm that up across the school.
- Going back to look at differentiation, to look at the smallest intervention that could be done within a classroom, e.g. having the right resource in classrooms at all times.
- Effort put into play in the early years settings was recognised as the right direction, but there is still work to be done there.
- Profiling of pupil experiences, child's journey of achievement and attainment. Understanding of who they are as a learner. Working hard on the vocabulary and dialogue around that. We need that now in a digital/paper format. KP has been working on that until now, done the research, and now we are ready to put something in place. P5 are in the process of compiling something to see how it works for learners and parents/carers. So children know themselves as a learner, but also give parents/carers opportunity to look into their children's learning at any time. Seesaw would have been preferred, but it's very expensive.

100 years of KPS:

It is a very exciting time for the school. We have had it confirmed that the school opened in 1924, despite some confusion over the actual date! In the summer term there is a lot happening to mark the centenary. Huge thanks to the PSA for everything they are doing for this and giving the children the opportunity to learn more about their village. There will be some great learning opportunities as part of this, including some involvement of parents/carers and wider community members. This will include cooking, games, challenges.

Parent consultations:

We are going to consult with parents/carers about the parent consultations, and whether that's the right thing for children, and what the pros and cons are. It may be that in the future we could try different approaches. A survey will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Simply Play:

The Simply Play move to East Calder came as a surprise to school as well as to parents/carers, and it is a loss to the school. We will miss having them with us, but do understand their rationale. One benefit, however, is that we get the use of the hall back, and we may be able to utilise some of the offers we've had for after school activities for the children.

4. Updates from Subgroups

Equality for Everyone group (Adele Murphy):

We have been discussing priorities for this year, we wanted to work closely with East Calder library. We have agreed to have a visit to them and look at understanding of neurodiversity and how they support neurodiversity. We also had a question out at parent consultations, to gather information about what parent/carers understanding of neurodiversity is. We will have an assembly on this topic after the Easter holidays. Some children are keen to talk about their own experience of neurodiversity which should be really positive. We have done a leaflet for parents/carers about neurodiversity so that there is some information for people with questions about the topic.

GIRFEC group (Barbara McDonald):

We are continuing to work on health week, looking at who will be joining us and what activities will be run. Timetables will be confirmed after the Easter holidays. Following that we will be doing a talent show, aligned with the UNCRC to try to promote that within the parent/carer community as well as within the school. Date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

After school clubs group (Pip Shiels):

This group has not really progressed this year; it will hopefully be picked up going forward as we now have the use of the hall to provide a space for activities offered. Also the 100 years celebrations will hopefully build stronger connections with people in the community who might be able to get involved in this. Kirsten Patience added that the school is in the process of forging a link with the Active Schools team, and considering piloting a Modern Apprentice scheme in the school, probably in partnership with East Calder, which may contribute to after school activities.

5. PSA Update (Lyndsey Robertson, PSA Vice-chair)

We're gearing up for the 100 year anniversary at the moment. We are still forming as a PSA so it's given us a good focus. Events include: dress down day, scavenger hunt, packs with 100 Penny Challenge. Encourage parents to send in photos that can be used to put up for the events community members are invited to. Thanks to PSA members who have worked on that, it's a great way of getting to know the community. Thanks to Potter Around who will help to make the mural with the pennies that come back from the 100 Penny Challenge. Thanks to Megan Hickling who has made a beautiful logo for the anniversary to be used throughout all of this, including as part of a tea towel that will be sold. At the end of the celebration there will be a disco on 16th May, one for younger and one for older kids. Further volunteers to help run this event would be welcome. We are also involving former pupils and thank you to those who have volunteered to do that already. It has been brilliant that lots of groups within the community have come together to contribute to this.

6. Wee Updates (Pip Shiels)

Head Teacher drop in:

This is a great opportunity for parents/carers to engage with the senior leadership team in the school once a month. Unfortunately it hasn't been very well attended so far, and we will look to understand reasons for that and barriers for people attending. Any feedback about this would be welcome.

Question: Would it be worth attaching it to a school assembly, where parents are already in the school and may stay on afterwards.

KP: This is a good idea, we will consider this.

Question: Are other (pre-school) kids welcome to come?

KP: Yes definitely, and there are toys out for them to play with. We can make this clearer.

7. Significant dates this term

Head Teacher drop in: Monday 29th April

Muddy boots gardening club: Wednesday 27th March, Wednesday 24th April

Additional support needs parents/carers group: Thursday 18th April, the Green Room

100th Anniversary Event: Thursday 2nd May

Reminder to check the school calendar for significant dates.

8. AOCB: none

9. Next meeting

The next PC Meeting will be on Tuesday 4th June at 8pm via Zoom