Head Teacher Report

Parent Council Meeting 10 November 2020

Current overarching priorities	Our Standards and Quality Report is about to be published on the school website along with a School Improvement Plan. Priorities were shared at the last PC meeting.	
School Improvement	Work undertaken was outlined in the newsletter for all parents and carers to review. I will continue to do this in each monthly newsletter. Coming up before Christmas – Improvement groups 1. Developing detailed guidance on learning, teaching and assessment across the school. 2. Formulating a policy for home learning based on the questionnaires completed by both parents and pupils before October week. 3. Developing a framework for interdisciplinary learning for the whole school alongside planning.	
Staffing Update	Thank you to PC for their support in recruitment process and appointing the DHT. Mrs Roisin Thomson has returned from mat leave as Principal Teacher part time and will be supporting learning in the upper school as well as overseeing aspects of digital learning, including developing and populating the school website. Mrs Ogg will continue as Support for Learning teacher with a part time Acting Principal Teacher role to offset Mrs Thomson.	
Supporting Learning	Mrs Thomson will be targeting upper school/second level learning to close gaps and raise attainment as Mrs Ogg moves to block 2 with groups from further down the school. We continue to support wellbeing of identified pupils with a range of interventions such as Seasons for Growth, Emotionworks and nurture approaches. Pupil Equity Funding is being used for:-	

	• A Speech and Language Therapist delivering staff training and interventions across the whole school. Teaching Children to Listen is already in place across Nursery to P2, with further groups taking place this term. We have a PSW working alongside her to take this forward long term. Wordboost and further listening groups will take place after Christmas. • 2 groups running to support nurture approaches and wellbeing. • A PSW leading Numeracy group interventions	
P7 and P1	In consultation with P7, all are now prefects and have been allocated a named buddy they will meet virtually. Ideas from P7 have been gathered to maximise their leadership opportunities.	
Learning environments, including staggered arrangements.	We continue to consider arrangements with ongoing review of use of all the areas we need to use and related risk assessments. As we move into autumn/winter – • Lunch tables and reviewing lunch hall – ongoing. We are trying to keep children in year groups. • New outdoor tables have arrived but need built up – FM staff are looking at this. • Partitioning went up over October week and all classes are now enclosed bays. The impact on the noise levels across the school is considerably reduced. I am working with WLC towards the next phase of the planned works. • New play equipment ordered and arrived – going out this week. • End of day arrangements for collection seem to be going smoothly. PC views on the arrangements welcome? • We have plans to develop the allotment/garden area in the grounds with a socially distanced volunteer coming in to get this area safe enough to allow children to take this forward as a garden/outdoor learning space. The volunteer will also be repairing the wooden benches in the grounds that have come out of their fixings. • PE can now be indoors with low aerobic activities and ventilation in place, although this will be outdoors where weather permits. Pupils must continue to come to school dressed for PE as we cannot use changing rooms. • Windows need to be open and, as previously highlighted, pupils should bring additional jumper rather than sitting in coats.	*

ICT Support for Families	We have previously asked that any families requiring support with hardware at home to contact the office. We have a note of the contacts and are awaiting further information around devices from Scottish Government/West Lothian Council. This is in process, but is taking time given the numbers of devices required collectively.	
Christmas arrangements	We are trying to plan for a Covid-safe Christmas. We do have some exciting ideas and we are in the early stages of planning these, such as a virtual pantomime, Covid-safe Christmas class parties, Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, and perhaps even a virtual visit from the North Pole! We plan to be mindful about planning for Christmas so as not to put any additional financial pressure on families, such as charity events or party costs.	*
Christmas Support for Families	There is support for families available which has been communicated to all. If you know of any family in need, please refer them to me in confidence as soon as possible.	
Parent Consultations	Parent Consultations had to be rescheduled to 17th November 4pm-7pm and 18th November 5pm-8pm. We are using an online platform linked to the parent evening booking system piloted earlier this session. We have issued guidance and advice to all families.	
Budget Update	As we enter the 3rd quarter of the financial year with Budget Statement 3, all budgets are extremely tight, particularly with Covid and a focus on ensuring we have sufficient PPE, etc. We do have to continually review the budget and consider carefully and strategically how the money is best used to support the children.	
ELC update	Query over the 1140 hours.	MY
Building community ideas	We are keen to investigate ideas to build community (not necessarily fundraising) across the wider school community. The Remembrance programme was very welcome across all classes.	*