PC meeting 30 March 2021

General information

- All classes have returned and settled well. The 3 weeks of P1-3 return, we focused on assessing learning, targeting gaps and supporting small groups and individuals. From 15th March, we then moved the focus to P4-7 for the same thing.
- We have bought Bug Club for upper school. With the success in P1-3, we want to build on this resource and with the online access, we can limit items going home.
- We have revamped the infant area with different allocated areas for play identified, and a review of resources that enhance meaningful play opportunities for the children.

Current Covid Guidance

- Current HPT procedure is that when there is a confirmed positive pupil in a class, the whole class isolates. This came into place last week.
- When any pupil has been asked to isolate for a 10 day period or has tested positive, we would always provide some remote learning for that period. For P1-3 we would use Teams and for P4-7 we would be using Teams. This also applies to any pupil shielding on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer.
- Where a parent has chosen to keep their child off on an ongoing basis without a medical letter, no school has the capacity to provide ongoing learning as all learning is provided in the school setting where we can.

Staffing

- We continue to have ongoing staff absence. We are doing our best to try and ensure continuity for the classes affected, in line with risk assessment guidance of mixing people going into classes. However there are times where we will have no choice but to use the staff we have that day.
- We have a new FMA called Rab McKee. Dougie Sommerville is retiring Wednesday 30th.

Arrangements for Remote Learning and ICT Skills Development

- We currently have AAL (Anytime Anywhere Learning) in place as an option for P5-7. We are hoping to move this to include P4 pupils as a choice. Given the amazing work on Teams and the skills P4 have developed, we are keen to offer this as an option. Agreements are required but we are keen to consult with parents and pupils for their views.

Grounds update

- Mr McKee is looking into how best to possibly get the picnic bench built, especially with the better weather coming.
- The wooden seating area on the grass needs sorted. We had someone cement it into place. Now we have wooden benches and lumps of concrete not stuck in the ground. We are looking to get quotes to see if these can be fixed safely. The only other alternative would be to remove the wooden benches.
- We have basketball hoops going up for the children too shortly.

Parent Consultations and Reporting

- Given the last lockdown, we are proposing issuing reports at the end of May with parental consultations early June to discuss these. We will be using the same online parent evening system again after the success last year.

Transition

- We have been planning transitions behind the scenes. A challenge has been trying to plan for these with the current limitations. We have a Microsoft Form ready to ask ELC parents about their views. JYHS have issued their transition calendar, with enhanced dates starting shortly too.
- We do not have our school structure quite yet, or our staffing confirmed. Once we do, we can start planning for the transitions from year to year, including pupils requiring enhanced transitions. We are expecting composite classes at several stages across the school but we will keep families informed when this is confirmed. We have had quite a number of new families join us in recent weeks, especially with the significant building within our catchment area.
- All schools have been given a little time limited additional funding to support health and wellbeing/nurturing approaches. Our plan for next term is that we are hoping to support P7 with transition/wellbeing/additional input to support them being as ready as they can be for secondary, as well as P6 with wellbeing/nurturing approaches. We will audit the need from August onwards but feel it is important to offer targeted support to our P7s next term.

Finance Update

- Already mentioned above some additionality in supporting wellbeing (time limited); buying Bug Club; Active Literacy.
- There have been significant additional costs during the current months that we have recorded under Covid. For example, hand towels, soap, Groupcall texts, signage. There will be some additional funding allocated next session to help schools.

Building Works

- The next phase is planned for this summer. This will involve the Support for Learning (SfL) room being made into a classroom (blocking off doors and removing a paper cupboard). There is also a planned knock through in what was Mr Champion's room and Mrs McConnachie's room last year. This would make one big room with a door instead of 2 small room with barely 3 walls. We are considering where to put each class once this is complete. Some ideas include moving the SfL room to the old library. We definitely want P7 classes to have rooms with doors as this has made a significant difference this year. One issue is that with the new works and a 15 class structure, we will not have an additional room for the library, but we have been consulting with staff and pupils and are proposing to use corridors for an infant and upper library space.
  PLANS TO FOLLOW

Thank you to Parent Council/PSA

I wanted to say a personal thank you to Parent Council/PSA for their support, understanding and input during these exceptional times. Having input from parents is always invaluable. The idea for the camp that came from PC was a huge success; input from a parent rep in an information leaflet we are developing was very helpful; knowing we have the support for some challenging situations just now is highly appreciated.