

PC meeting September 2021

Funding/Budget Update

We have an additional teacher at P7 stage with a specific remit for raising attainment at this level. The classes were restructured and the feedback from the pupils so far is very positive. The classrooms are calm, settled and purposeful.

We have ordered 6 new interactive panels enabling all the classes to have these for learning. Thank you for the PSA donation towards this. Digital learning and skills are a priority within the School Improvement Plan and these will really enhance learning and teaching.

We have used additional government funding to allow to employ an additional Pupil Support Worker. This is allowing us to have two existing PSW staff who have trained in literacy and numeracy for early/first level to be timetabled at P1 and P2 with a focus in these areas and to support pupil well-being in the early years.

Building Works

Our new classrooms are looking amazing and the school looks very different! Our P7 pupils have made a Sway presentation to share with all our families.

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 based on part time staffing, commitments, overall school need. We would draw on the teacher of Reduced Class Contact Time, Support for Learning Teacher, Principal Teacher, Depute Head Teacher and myself.
- I am delighted to share that Karlie, who returned in August, has been offered a secondment post supporting Pupil Equity Funding. This post runs until next summer. Roisin Thomson has agreed to increase her hours to full time this session to cover this post.

Current Covid Guidance

- School risk assessments and mitigations have changed very little. We continue to have staggered starts, entrances and exits, breaks and lunches.
- All schools and the council are following Scottish Government and NHS advice for managing Covid. The school role is to facilitate the communication from NHS to our families where there is the first positive case in a class/stage by issuing a Warn and Inform letter to that class/stage. We cannot identify individuals. The onus is on the individual family to share close contact with Test and Protect.
- 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 Seesaw 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.

School Improvement

We have a new Link Officer, Lisa Moore. We had a Quality Improvement visit on 30th August with a focus on our data, planning for improvement and self-evaluation. She met with pupils, staff and the leadership team. This was a very positive visit.

Our Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan were discussed and agreed as part of this visit. An important part of our success story was the results of the Ethos Survey. Please see appendix shared with Parent Council.

Primary 2 year group are looking at our school grounds and the gardening areas as part of their learning. They have big plans for developing the allotment and grounds!

P7 pupils have been looking at our playground, auditing the current play and equipment. They have been consulting with pupils and PSW staff around this and have been allocated a budget to improve this area. Our next steps for P7 is looking at meaningful ways to work with P1 pupils given there are restrictions in place across all schools.

Bike Racks

Funding for this and the funding process would require a significant amount of work before we were in the position to apply for this. If the PC/PSA were keen to look at this, we would need –

- Matched funding for the grant
- Significant preparation
- Plans, quotes, costs, matched funding and proposals ready for June 2022 as the application for funding is very soon after schools return in August.

An idea would be a sub group to look into this and be working in the background to prepare for this.