

MPIP Minutes Wednesday 26th August 2015

APOLOGIES

Sarah Stephen, Kathryn Rintoul, Joanne Evans, Joanne Lord, Louise Somerville, Kathryn Michie, Joanne Provan, Katrina MacArtney, Libby Davidson.

1. ATTENDANCE

Ruth Scott, Leah Mckinnon, Elaine Yeats, Caseydee Warrander, Fraser Edward, Julie Farquhar, Jane Brown, Carol Harper, Lesley Buchan, Rebecca McLennan, Donna Sim, Nicola Alexander, Sarah Mortimer, Lana Duncan, Jill Good, Gary Donald, Hazel Fraser, Alastair Beaton

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND UPDATES

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with no updates or amendments.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- Possibility of using Tesco school uniform service. The parent who raised this issue was unable to attend the meeting. It is understood that this service is cheaper than the current school uniform provider. A survey carried out last year showed that the majority were happy with the current service. There is also now a new online ordering service: www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com It is understood that the Tesco service has been revoked as they were unable to fulfil orders before the start of the school year.

4. HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

The school roll is currently standing at 358 pupils in primary classes and 91 in nursery. This is less than expected.

There are 2 staff vacancies in the nursery. Interviews for a full time position are to be carried out on Monday and an advert for a part time position will be released in due course. Mrs Rachael Reid has joined the teaching staff as job share with Mrs Jenny Calder. Two probationary teachers Miss Lynsey Kelman and Miss Clare Brady will be working in school this year. Mrs Susan Keith has left her job share position and until a new teacher is appointed Carol Harper will be covering this role. Mrs Lois Thomson will be working on a permanent basis 3 days a week, teaching drama. Mrs Ellen Leslie replaces Mrs Lusher as PE visiting specialist teacher.

Over summer the computer suite was to be removed and converted into a classroom. Delays to this project mean that the new classroom may not be ready until early September.

The climbing wall was replaced over the summer and is being well used.

Grounds work was carried out over the summer break. Paving and stones have been put in to aid drainage, along with black mats to help prevent erosion of the grass. There has been a reported theft of some of these mats and the police are involved.

During the summer term there were 113 instances of children arriving late in the morning. Parents will be notified by letter if a child is repeatedly late.

Car park safety – this session we have an increase in the number of taxis delivering and collecting children so please do not park in the dedicated disabled parking areas without good reason. Parents are also reminded not to park in the dedicated bus parking bays, up on the grass verges or near the entrance to the school. Whilst the turning circle near to the school kitchen is a recognised dropping off point for parents, please be aware that some of our school buses effectively require to do a three point turn in the circle in order to exit school grounds. If approaching the turning circle please allow school buses and taxis to exit the area before drawing up to drop off pupils.

Health and Safety issues at the nursery storage unit were first raised in January 2015. Robertsons and representatives from Aberdeenshire council do not see an issue. Placing new planters across the front of the unit was suggested. The Business Support Officer who visited in March said money would be provided if work was to be done so AB is to follow this up.

5. TREASURER'S UPDATE

Total income for the 2014/15 session was £6801.01

The last Rag Bag collection raised a total of £1137.60 over the last year.

Design a Christmas Card raised £709.00.

The Christmas Fayre raised £2974.17.

The Boden Shopping Event raised £541.98.

Easyfundraising has raised £179.06.

Sale of Spree books raised £555.00

Sale of House colour T shirts raised £157.2

Expenditure over the session was £9998.26

£2747.75 for school trips.

£1100.00 Theatre Production of Charlotte's Web.

£3073.20 Smart Board speakers.

£15.96 for gifts for the janitors.

£53.18 for Christmas Party snacks.

£154.74 Sports Day expenses.

£200 Mrs Bremner's gardening class.

£87.40 for face paints and tattoos which were used at various events throughout the year.

£94.77 for P7 leaving presents.

£88.00 for 2014/15 P7 school diaries.

£1144.14 in class allowance.

£285.12 for Summer Picnic.

Current bank balance £4773.69.

6. FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Spree Booklet – these will be issued in the next week, to be sent home with eldest child. Information will be sent with the Spree booklet and also will be sent via email and the school Facebook page.

Cauliflower Cards – EY to speak to Wendy and Lynne who organised this last year.

Rag bag – ongoing fundraising. A large collection from the porta cabin in the Early Stages Playground will be arranged for a date next term.

Halloween Disco and Christmas Fayre – MPiP Group Reps have taken responsibility for organising these events.

7. MPiP GROUP REPS UPDATE

Group reps have not yet had a meeting this term.

Halloween Disco – Planning is progressing and the group of parents involved in organising this event will be meeting shortly to finalise details. The ticket price is likely to be higher than last year as each child will be given a goody bag containing sweets and a glow stick rather than needing to bring money for the tuck shop.

Easyfundraising – Further promotion will include updated posters and possibly a bag drop to remind parents of how easy this service is to use. Online shopping done from a huge list of retailers can raise money for MPiP by reaching the website through the easyfundraising page.

The Group Reps will likely need new members this session as some parents will no longer have children in the school.

8. AOB

School photos – A photographer will need to be booked shortly. Discussion about whether class photos or individual photos were preferred. RS to email parents asking for opinions, these will pass to Mr Beaton before a decision is made.

Education City – An email from a parent stated that she felt not enough use was being made of this service. Last session there were various problems with the Education City package but these have hopefully been rectified. After seeking feedback from children, parents and teachers, the Education City homework package has been renewed for P1-P4 only. Children need to be allocated to their new classes and homework licences manually assigned to each child. The service should be up and running shortly. This year there is to be more consistency in the use of Education City. Use of this package is linked to the curriculum so homework will be set relating to what is being taught in class at that time.

1+2 Approach to Modern Languages – as part of our improvement plan, we are this session preparing for the introduction of this new national initiative which will see a modern language taught from P1. Later, a second language will be taught from P5. This process will begin in August 2016 and be phased in throughout the next five years

Early Stages Playground in the mornings – the playground is chaotic in the morning with parents crowding the lines and lots of noise. A similar situation arose at the beginning of the 2014-15 session with the influx of new P1 parents and things settled down within a couple of weeks. It is hoped that the same will happen again this year.

Change of school hours – AB to follow up and report back at the next meeting.

Class Termly Updates – a parent emailed to request that a class update be sent out on the first day of term. AB stated that various timetabling across the school is done during the first week of term. Class Termly Updates are completed once timetabling is confirmed and class planning, taking into account children's views and preferences, has been completed. Class Termly Updates will be posted on the website and paper copies are available on request.

Special thanks to Carol Harper for getting the school website up and running.

Developments within the village – LB to contact local councillor to voice concerns about the possibility of new housing being built within the village and the possible impact this could have on the school.

P7 leaving gift – concerns were voiced by a parent about the size and quality of the dictionary given to P7 pupil as a leaving gift. The dictionary given was identical to that of previous years.

MPIP AGM MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 7PM, SCHOOL STAFF ROOM

(Please note that this meeting will only be for AGM business, no other business will be discussed.)