



**Hard Work
Fairness
Inclusion
Respect
Faith**

Parent Council.

2nd February 2021

In Attendance - Miss Quail, Mrs Carroll, Miss Parker, Mrs Walker, Mrs O'Connor, Mr Callaghan, Councillor Ross, Miss Jones, Mrs Waugh, Mrs McDermott, Councillor Nailon

Apologies - Mrs Allan, Cllr Ross highlighted that there were potential clashes with other council meetings.

Welcome	Miss Quail welcomed all attendees in our virtual Parent Council meeting.
Opening Prayer	Led by Mrs Walker. Thank you.
Minutes of last Meeting	~ No actions outstanding.
Correspondence	~ No correspondence received. ~ Mrs O'Conner advised no further invites to wider SLC meetings. Will update as and when.
Update from HT re Covid & school business (survey results / P1 enrolments / school building)	<p>~ Miss Quail advised that works to complete the changes to previous open area into classroom are hoping to begin over the February weekend. This includes a change to insulated fire doors and finishes to the room. Will be nice to be able to have full use of this as a classroom. Works should be complete prior to next council meeting.</p> <p>~ P1 enrolment, so far there have been 16 + 2 placing requests made giving potential total of 18 P1s for 21/22. This is slightly less than usual numbers. Miss Quail advised that there have been some calls made to parents, however, have not arranged any virtual meetings yet. SLC advised there were some technical difficulties with online registration and so there may be possible late enrolment. Miss Quail highlighted that almost all the new intake are siblings from within the school community.</p> <p>~ Miss Quail advised that while there are no defined transition plans as yet, the school are confident that they can replicate the set up last year and hope to improve on this. Mr Callaghan confirmed that atm confirmation are all by phone call. Nothing has yet been sent out.</p> <p>~ Recent survey sent to parents had overall very positive responses. The volume of replies was not huge, but the feedback has been good. Parent have been really happy with the introduction of pre-recorded videos and would like to see more of this. Teaching staff have been really pleased with the feedback.</p> <p>~ There were requests for additional Google Meets throughout the week. Feedback on tasks assigned was mixed with some</p>

feeling there should be less focus on H+WB or Art for example, but others feeling they would like to see more of this.

~ Responses have provided an opportunity to remind parents not to get stressed about doing everything but to do what you can. Has allowed for reassurance to be offered to parents. And provided opportunity to check in on those who may not yet have access to device - have been able provide some further Kindles and have just 2 left in school.

~ Overall survey has seen positive results and Miss Quail highlighted that it is great to be able to give teachers that feedback and offer ability for any adjustments/improvements.

~ Miss Parker added that there had been a lot of feedback on various IT and different process for different devices etc. Miss Parker emphasised that everyone is doing really well and adapting as best able to.

~ Miss Parker also reaffirmed that it is about doing what you can manage. That everything can be overwhelming, and kids may be struggling emotionally, missing school/friends etc and last thing school want is to create another point of tension in the household.

~Miss Quail shared about the Pocket Hugs that were sent to all pupils last week. A way of maintaining positive message, the hugs were well received and also there as point of discussion with the kids on subsequent assemblies that week.

~Miss Quail advised that trying to maximise engagement is key. There are a number of behind scenes monitoring processes in place to ensure people are as supported as can be.

~ Hopeful of return in coming weeks after today's SG announcement. Miss Quail advised currently 22 pupils in school via hub care arrangements.

~ Currently working on plans for return of P1-3 but the information around this is limited.

~ Cllr Ross wanted to offer his most sincere thanks to all the work being carried out throughout the school staff. He has highlighted with T McDaid that the amount of additional work carried out within the Education Dept is incredible and has asked that his thanks and appreciation be passed to all staff.

~ Mrs O'Conner highlighted the differences in lockdown now and previously, this time round has been much harder for everyone. But the kids are coping really well, and this has provided a valuable insight for parents into the amount of work that goes on behind scenes. There is instant feedback, and everyone is working really hard to ensure that it is clear no one is in it on their own.

~ Miss Quail advised the remote learning policy had been updated and was available on Twitter/ Website and school app.

~ Further discussion around the use of Google Classrooms highlighted that it may be beneficial to introduce the use of the calendar function for scheduling class meets and the assembly. Miss Parker will look into the options with this.

	<p>Also positive feedback on the use of assignments and private messaging. This has been a really useful introduction. Miss Carroll is going to look into the possibility of adding virtual library details to assignments to prevent this getting lost in the stream.</p> <p>~ Mrs Carroll advised there has been a move to try and make the use of GC more uniform across all classes. And that senior management are completing daily checks to ensure ease of access and to see how kids are getting on. Learner spot checks are completed to allow support to be offered to both kids and teachers. Mrs Carroll highlighted how quickly time is passing and that it is great to be able to keep up to date with everyone.</p> <p>~ Mrs O'Conner enquired about the use of GC moving forward. Miss Quail advised that while they would hope to strike a better balance, that yes, the majority of homework etc will now be GC based. Miss Quail highlighted the importance of preparing kids for a digital world and emphasised that they have learned so much throughout this time it would be a shame to lose those skills.</p> <p>~Miss Parker highlighted that we have not yet reached 1 year in using GC and the amount of learning by both the children and the staff in that time has been incredible. Staff have 2 X weekly digital sessions to allow for upskilling and building digital platforms for work. Has been fantastic for everyone to get to the stage we are in under the year.</p>
PTFA - update	<p>~ Mrs McDermott advised that there has been a good amount of fund raising via the Bonus Ball Facebook page and there was an increase in activity in the lead up to Christmas time. Mrs McDermott said there has been a conscious reduction in activity atm due to time of year, ongoing COVID situ and feeling it is a lot to ask of people. PTFA are looking at the possibility of monthly draws.</p> <p>~ Miss Quail highlighted just how successful the PTFA activities had been in the run up to Christmas and that the result of this made a huge difference to the school community. Miss Quail advised school had been able to support with food vouchers/presents as well as the cost of Panto tickets and the P7 leavers hoodies and treats for Christmas parties. Miss Quail emphasised what a great time the kids were able to have during Christmas activities and highlighted that the group have done an incredible job and offered sincere thanks.</p>
AOCB	<p>~ Cllr Ross has been able to provide some insight into the recently proposed budget cuts from SLC. Budget cuts had been issued based on the possible forecast of £11m deficit across SLC however, updated announcement from SG this week which has seen additional funds allocated to local authority may mean that there does not need to be any cuts made at all.</p> <p>~ Cllr Ross advised that he is part of a cross party working group who are working together to find solutions. He highlighted that this group will not support any cuts to</p>

	<p>Education which result in the loss of teaching staff, and that they will not support any cuts which result in reduction of support offered via Psychological Services. Cllr Ross confirmed that talks so far have been very constructive and while there may still be some efficiency cuts made, everyone in the group is working to find the right options to move forward.</p> <p>~ Cllr Nailon in support confirmed that the group are working together to get it right. People's lives are affected and should be the right solutions.</p> <p>~ Miss Quail highlighted the support received from Psychological Services and how highly valued they are within the school and it is pleasing to hear hoping to prevent loss there.</p> <p>~ Cllr Ross also advised there is no intention to change the ratio for P1 classes or to increase class sizes.</p>
Date of next meeting	Tuesday 23 rd March 2021 -6.30pm