

Harestanes Primary Parent Council Meeting

Minute of Meeting
Held on Monday 28 February 2022

Present: JG (Head Teacher)
JGr (Depute Head Teacher)
FS (Teacher Representative)
MMa (Co-Chair)
CC (Co-Chair)
JB
DM
MM
KM (Clerk)

1. Welcome

CC welcomed everyone present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from SMacD.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minute of the last meeting were adopted as being correct by MMa and seconded by JB.

4. Matters Arising

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

5. Councillors Update

As there were no Councillors in attendance, there was no update.

6. Active Literacy Overview

JG introduced JGr to the Committee and advised that JGr was going to give us an overview of the new literacy package being rolled out across the school.

JGr gave a presentation to the committee outlining the new Active Literacy programme. This would be used across the school to help support and improve the children's literacy, all as part of the School Improvement Plan. Not only will this improve children's reading but also assist to develop their writing and spelling. The children will be reading fiction, non-fiction, poetry, film and digital text. Early books are from Oxford Reading Tree. Stage 2 and 3 books are novels. Stage 4 and 5 are also using novels with stage 6 and 7 using film clips and trailers as well as reading.

JGr went into detail as to how the children use their reading skills to answer various questions on the books they are reading. Staff are working hard to develop this programme in school. DM advised that her children had been speaking about the new programme at home and asking how its success or otherwise is measured. JGr advised the children are assessed on an ongoing basis and there are 3 snapshot weeks through the school year that gives an overview of how everyone is progressing.

The goal is to get all children to improve their skills and progress from where they are now.

The committee asked how we get this information to all parents and it was suggested that we send something out via Groupcall to advise all parents about this new approach to literacy.

All staff were now confident with the new Active Literacy approach and are keen to get literacy right for all our children. Mrs Hudson is supporting development of Active Literacy across the school.

FS advising how a bespoke version of Active Literacy is being used in the ELR.

7. Covid-19 - school update

JG advised that since we returned to school in August we have had 81 pupil cases and 10 staff cases of Covid. Staff continue to wear face coverings whilst moving around the school. School clubs are starting up again with football, netball and minifit already started. We would see the return of full school assemblies in the hall and children are all very excited about singing songs again. School start and stop times and lunchtimes will continue to be dictated by EDC's guidance. It was asked if the school could hold a Summer Fayre this year and whilst Jackie advised she would be happy for it to be

held she was unsure if it would be allowed by the authority. It might be possible to hold it but not actually in school.

DM asked if parents were to be allowed back into the playground but JG advised that, as yet, EDC had not provided clarification on this point.

It was commented that it seemed unfair that thousands of voters were allowed into the school to vote but parents were unable to attend school for parent's nights. MMA advised that she would be opposing the school being used as a polling station in the future but she was aware that JG had no control over this.

8. HT update

JG advised Mrs Davidson and Mrs Glover had now fully returned to contracted hours. Miss MacDonald will finish with us at Easter. Miss Maguire will begin in the ELR on 28 March and the ELR will move to 4 classes in August. The Gwen Mayor Memorial Award in the sum of £1000 has been used to support learning through orienteering and Mrs Hudson is currently training staff in this connection.

JG advised that the Nurture Group continues to do well. WE have used PEF funding to set up the spaces in Area 1 and Area 2. The Inclusive Classroom, led by Dr Docherty, Ed Psych, has also been developed with two spaces available, wellbeing room and "The Den" for children who need a calm space or somewhere safe to talk with adults. In Term 3 we would be raising awareness of relationships, sexual health and parenthood and staff would be provided with training in this connection.

As discussed earlier we are looking to raise attainment in Literacy by using the North Lanarkshire Active Literacy Approach. Mrs Grant is leading and modelling this programme within classes and new reading resources have been purchased.

In the ELR, Emotion Works has had a positive impact but time will tell. It helps to develop strategies. In relation to Calm training, this is ongoing for all ELR staff. ELR pupils have now started transitioning between the ELR and mainstream school as required and they are also involved in after school clubs.

The PEF budget for 2022/23 would probably be known to us in May/April.

Harestanes are fast approaching their 50th anniversary - 1 September 2022. Does anyone have any suggestions for an event to mark the occasion?

MM asked what events P7 would be involved in with this being their last year at Harestanes. JG advising there was a day trip organised for the P7 to Luss and they would all be involved in actual transitions to Kirkintilloch High. The possibility of a led bike ride was also being looked at and hoodies would be issued the last week of school.

9. Chairpersons Updates

CC and MMA advised they had no updates at this time.

10. AOCB

MMA asked why pre-ordered foods were not always available in school. JG advised that unfortunately, sometimes, children change their minds and this can result in certain foods running out and children not always getting what they want. JG advised the band system was no more and it was difficult to monitor children changing their mind. It was asked if visual aids could be put on system to assist children make meal choices. DM raised a concern that the menu seems to be going down the fast food approach and not as healthy menu choices available as before. JG asked her to email in with her concerns. MMA raised the concern her daughter had advised food was not very warm and that water is not chilled. JG said she would see what she can find out about these concerns.

JB asking if Harestanes is operating the Parent Portal yet and JG advised that we are not, yet using this system.

DM asking why there were no evening parent appointments, or at least nothing later than 6pm. JG advised that this restriction was currently as a result of Covid and the requirement for staff to have vacated the building by 6pm each day. Hopefully this may change in the future.

It may be possible to hold a summery fayre this year if it is held outdoors but obviously this would require to be risk assessed.

11. Date of the next meeting:

The date of the next meeting was set as Wednesday 4 May 2022 at 7.00pm online.