

Tipperty Parents Group Meeting

23rd February 2021

Present: Mrs Harrison (chair), Mrs Longley and Mrs Hewitt (Secretaries), Mrs Elrick-Stewart, Miss Buchan, Mrs Dew.

Apologies- Councillor Davidson, Councillor Owen, Mrs Gillies

Chairman's report

We are pleased to see the P1-3s back at school and again we would like to thank the teachers for the great work they are doing. Due to personal circumstances, our current Chairperson has decided to step down from the role. As a result of this, a vacancy has now arisen within the Tipperty Parent Group for a Chairperson. We invite any parents who would be interested in filling this role to come forward. This can be done by contacting the School. We would be grateful for any assistance with this.

The School and the Parents Group would like to thank Mrs Harrison for the time that she has given to the school and the Parents Group over the last 2 years.

Treasurer's report

There are no change to the finances from the last meeting and the balance remains the same as the previous meeting.

Head Teacher's report

I am delighted that the P1-3 children have this week made a return to Tipperty school and look forward to the time when the P4-7 pupils may also return, when the Scottish Government advise that it is permissible to do so.

The P4-7 pupils continue to work remotely. We thank all parents for their continued support with online learning. It has been pleasing to see so many pupils on Live Teams calls and we hope that the children enjoy the opportunity to interact with fellow pupils and staff.

On the return to school, our priorities are promoting Health and Wellbeing, continued use of the Outdoor area and identifying next steps in Maths and Literacy. In the case of the P5-7 class, we plan to involve the children in setting targets for their work for the remainder of the session. We are also considering how we can meaningfully involve the younger pupils in setting targets for their own learning.

In the coming weeks, the children will be learning about Fairtrade Fortnight and we also plan to celebrate Red Nose Day on 19th March. We will be back in contact with more details about Red Nose Day shortly.

School staff are at the early stages of implementing the Marvellous Me app and we would encourage all parents to download this app in preparation for the full return to school. We will use this platform to share photographs of your child's work in school, and we hope that this app can also be used as a profiling tool for the children in future.

We have recently subscribed to Sumdog and now have full access to Sumdog grammar, spelling and maths. This can be used during remote learning but also during normal term time as a homework activity.

In response to the query raised at the previous meeting about parental access to the school playground, we are trialling a system whereby up to 5 adults may access the playground at any one time, with priority being given to parents of pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 2. We would like to thank parents for continuing to follow guidance with regard to the wearing of face coverings and social distancing when collecting pupils from school.

We have recently been working on renewing the 100 Club for 2021 and we would like to thank all parents, family and community members who continue to support this valuable fundraising activity in these challenging times.

Arrangements for Reporting to Parents in term 4 have not yet been finalised; these will be communicated in due course.

Please keep in contact with the school by phone or email if we can offer any support in any way.

Road Safety

At the previous meeting Road Safety on Logie Road was discussed. The statement above regarding parental access to the playground addresses part of the concerns. However, Councillor Davidson had said she would speak to the council regarding the situation with the parking/school bus. As Councillor Davidson has been unable to attend this meeting, Miss Buchan stated that she would contact Councillor Davidson to see if there were any updates.

Fundraising

At the last meeting we discussed and decided that we need to fundraise towards the purchase of new iPads for the school. After further investigation, we will be fundraising to secure 5 iPads to be sourced by Aberdeenshire Council at a total cost of £1450. Miss Buchan has checked the procedures and due to financial regulations, all IT equipment must be sourced by Aberdeenshire Council IT department. After a discussion, we agreed that a good way we could achieve this is through a 'Go Fund me page' and potentially through 'Amazon Smile', depending on the rules for this. This will now be looked into and set up between now and the next meeting. Further information about how parents can support this challenge will be sent out in due course.

Tipperty Parents Group Facebook page

A Facebook page has now been set up. The purpose of the group is to improve communication and help parents to feel involved. Members join the group by invitation only and members are checked to ensure they are current parents of the school. Miss Buchan is to seek further clarification from Christine McLennan regarding the rules for the group e.g. can an image of the school or the school badge be used on the group? Participants in the group will need to adhere to the group rules. The teachers have been invited to join the group. Miss Buchan will seek clarification as to whether this is best to be actioned by a separate school account rather than personal accounts. The Parents group have committed to agreeing the code of conduct for the Facebook page and having administrators who will approve posts. The Parents group decided in the meeting that we will hold an art competition for the P1-3 children in school. We would like them to create an image of school. The entries will then be shown anonymously to the P4-7 children for them to vote for their favourite. The winning artwork will be used as our Parents Group Facebook image. The School have agreed that they will facilitate this competition and it will take place within the next 2 weeks.

Defibrillator

Mrs Elrick-Stewart has volunteered to take on the role of custodian of the defibrillator from Mrs Park from the end of this school session. Mrs Elrick-Stewart will contact Mrs Park nearer the time to get details of what the task involves. Miss Buchan said that in future, when we are once more allowed community gatherings, the school would like to hold a community engagement session with regard to the defibrillator.

Sensory Garden

Mrs Dew spoke about how she plans to work with the children regarding the future plans for planting in the garden. Mrs Harrison spoke about a muddy area in the corner of the field behind the cosy corner. Mrs Dew said that she would look at this area to see if there is anything that can be planted there.

Date of next meeting- Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 7pm.