

Present	Stacey Panda, Laura Thomson, Hilary Gorrie, Tom Wasilewski, Phil Kirk, Leslie Dymond
Apologies	Vic Young, Mark Downie, Sian Bevan, Lianne Scarlett, Ann Wheeler
Date	21/03/24
Chair	Stacey Panda
Minutes	Hilary Gorrie

1) Previous minutes

Agreed.

2) Treasurer Update

£600.40 from Edinburgh City Council awarded to each Parent Council was received on the 15th of January.

There is £724.06 in the general fund.

£239.99 in the library fund and £4000 kept aside for the line painting costs.

Interest: £5.56

3) School/ Nursery Update

Pupil Numbers

Currently 330

P1 for next session is currently at 48 with two catchment enrolments pending. This means that we are at capacity unless the council will remove the restriction of 50. We can take up to 60 children in the P1 space but this would mean an additional teacher.

Staffing

HT recruitment underway – 2 candidates for short leet. Once an applicant is confirmed the parent forum will be informed following protocol.

PSA adverts out now hopefully interviews soon – we have put in vacancies for one full time and one part time PSA.

We will still have 13 classes next session, same as this session.

School Improvement Plan

1. Reading and Writing

We had a very successful Book Week organised by Mrs Laothong. Every class went to Waterstone's in Princes Street and chose a book with their token.

Staff have formed into 3 book groups to read an agreed book about learning and teaching. They will read, discuss and this will help them further enhance their practice.

2. Sustainability

P4 are taking the lead in improving our outdoor area with planting ideas.

3. Global Goals

Staff are using the global goals to plan their topics. We have looked at all the previous plans and we are covering all 17 of the goals across the whole school. Mr Leonard organised a very successful Science Week and the children shared their learning in assembly last week.

4. Learning Community – Victoria teaching staff met with teachers from Wardie, Trinity Primary and Trinity Academy to review how they support and challenge the children in their classes. P3 and P4 teachers visited other classes at Wardie and Trinity Primary and were able to learn with and from each other. We have a Pupil Conference planned for 25th April where children from each school will meet and discuss how they lead their learning.

Road Safety

- Double yellow lines around corners on Windrush Drive, Glenarm Place and Western Harbour Drive are planned for the summer holidays to restrict parking near the school.
- A Tiger Crossing is being designed for Western Harbour Drive. This is a crossing for pedestrians and bikes. I have been told that the crossing will be installed during the summer holidays.
- The council are investigating where the best place for the cycle lanes are on Western Harbour Drive too.

Bereavement Charter Mark

We are working with St Columba's Hospice to be the first school to apply for a Bereavement Charter Mark for Schools to be recognised as a Grief Aware School. We are working to make our school an environment where anyone in our school community either facing a bereavement or those who are bereaved feel supported by the people around them and have resources and information available to support them in their grief. Each class will do some lessons about death and dying in May but we will send out a letter to parents and carers nearer the time to tell them more about it.

Community Projects

Knitting club

12 children every Tuesday lunchtime working with volunteers from Heart of Newhaven to knit squares for their Christmas Tree project.

Lunch club

P3s entertained The Cyrenians Lunch Club at The Heart of Newhaven last week. They performed their class assembly to the diners and it went down very well. A small group stayed behind with a Pupil Support Assistant to chat to people afterwards. We have been asked back to provide more lunchtime entertainment so the P6s and P2s have been invited next term following their class assemblies.

Our City, Our Hills, Our Sea

We are working across our Learning Community to find out more about our beautiful city. This will be a three week project in May and we look forward to sharing our work with you.

Nursery

The Nursery is at full capacity.

The Nursery are to be involved in a pilot scheme in which parents can buy additional hours if they wish.

The fob door is still not fixed despite much effort from multiple sources. If this continues the Parent Council will pursue the matter.

4) Councillor Update

No councillors in attendance

5) Fundraising & Events Update

£500 raised at the Spring Fling.

6) Safe Routes to School

Stacey apologised for not sharing the information with the Parent Council about the installation of the Tiger crossing and the double yellow lines in the summer holidays. An email will follow.

The summer was chosen to minimise disruption to the children and the council are aware that the After School Club and the Nursery are still running.

Stacey reported that, following installation, there will be a review to assess whether a further crossing in Glenarm Place is required.

Phil reported that Holy Cross Primary School has a Police presence, hazard signs and cardboard cut-out people. This has made a positive impact on irresponsible people parking in unsafe places. Phil will take a photo of this and share it with the Senior Leadership team. The school Junior Road Safety Officers will contact the JRSOs at Holy Cross for further information.

This link takes you directly to where you can report hazardous driving and parking
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parking/reporting-vehicles-parked-illegally>

This will be shared on the Parent Council Facebook page and sent out to parents.

8) AOB

Phil suggested inviting the After School Club to Parent Council meetings due to the many agenda items of mutual interest. This was agreed. If attending they would have no voting power.

Leslie requested that the nursery and school finishing times be considered as 15 minutes waiting in the cold was challenging through the winter. Crocodile club bridges the gap between the end of the P1 and P2 school day and the rest of the school.

Laura will update the school handbook and P1 information handbook soon. Leslie will help to produce it.

Leslie sent a message to Steve about him helping with maintaining the website with her.

Next meeting

16th of May