



NEWTONGRANGE PS PC MEETING – minutes

LOCATION: Zoom	
DATE: Monday 15 th March 2021, 7pm	
PRESENT: Alison Lyles (minutes), Vicky Morgan, Nicki Istephan, Sarah Burrell, Kirstie Corbett, Catsy Moffat, Rodrigo Soares, Joanna Dunlop, Liz McCabe, Tricia McNicol, Gillian Miller	
APOLOGIES: Jason Ferry	
MATTERS ARISING:	ACTION
1. Introductions & apologies	
2. Minutes from last PC meeting dated 14/12/20 agreed.	
3. Parent council treasurer role – Kirstie Corbett has highlighted that she is unable to continue with this role from immediate effect. CM highlighted that this is an action for the PTA group to take forward in finding a new treasurer & to action the outstanding hand over of the role from Ashwyn Melmoth.	
4. <u>School update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vicky Morgan shared some of the statistics associated with the remote learning adventure (Jan-Mar 2021). See attached slides. It was highlighted that there was the expectation that learning would continue and would build upon the advances in remote learning experienced in the first lockdown. ELC/P1-1/2 used Seasaw for remote learning. The rest of school used Google classroom with a focus on a weekly learning grid, live daily google meet and a live assembly on a Friday. Children received a variety of learning and teaching via the remote platform. Everyone agreed that we are all thankful to the staff and parents/carers of Newtongrange PS for the ongoing support relating to our children's learning. It is also important to recognise that learners have shown huge skills in resilience and digital learning. Going forward, out of lockdown – HWB/ literacy/numeracy are the current key focus with other curricular areas as a vehicle of learning. It is also important for learners to continue to develop their digital skills outside of lockdown. This links with the Midlothian Council digital learning programme - whereby learners will each receive a device to help continue digital learning and ideas such as moving homework onto Google Classroom may also support this. Sarah Burrell shared a video with regards to "Our Remote Learning Adventure" celebrating the whole school's achievements during lockdown.<u>Staffing:</u> nearly all staff have been able to return to work this week with the exception of a few staff. Ms Wardlaw was replaced by Miss Riddell after the Christmas break and will teach	

<p>P5 or the remainder of the scholastic year. Mrs Bonnar has returned for maternity leave and is now sharing the teaching for P3/4. Mrs McNeill is due to return from mat leave in May and it is hoped she may join the support for learning team for the remainder of the school year. Miss Dolan has been appointed acting PT of Health & Wellbeing but only able to join in her role for 3 days per week until later in the year. ELC – Clare Knight started in December but has now moved on from this post. 2 x modern apprentices have started. Contingency planning is in place for ELC provision as they are currently down 2.5FTE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing challenges surrounding primary schools with regards to self-isolation etc. • <u>COVID 19 specific</u>: Risk assessment remain in place; lateral flow testing is in place for staff to undertake twice per week. All staff are now wearing surgical face masks as per MLC policy. Regular cleaning is being undertaken. There have been some reports of discolouration of children's clothing following the use of the chlorine cleaning spray in the school. It was highlighted that this is commonplace and within the guidance but that there may be more care needed in the drying of areas to prevent adverse effects to clothing. • School improvement plan – this is under review in light of all the changes and challenges highlighted. Pupil equity funding continues but this will need to align this with school priorities and staffing for the next session. The Scottish government has given more money to local authorities to support children following the lockdown however overall PEF funding has reduced by £5k compared to last year. • <u>Seasaw app</u>: Sarah Burrell raised that due to issues with GDPR, Seasaw direct messaging will no longer allowed from the Easter break. An alternative will need to be sought in the interim for direct communication with parents. • <u>Parent consultations</u>: these will occur over the next 2 weeks for P1-3/ELC. P4-7 parent consultations will occur in the first 2 weeks back after the holidays. Assessments will be undertaken within school to ascertain where learners are in their learning journey and to support planning appropriate next steps for each individual learner. Reports will come out at the end of June. • LMc raised that it would interesting to find out if there is evidence to suggest that the smaller class sizes (associated with key worker school provision) might be of advantage going forward in terms of funding within schools. 	
<p>5. <u>PTA/ Fundraising update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM outlined that there should have been a PTA newsletter published this term but due to the lockdown period, this remains outstanding. A PTA meeting will need to be set up to take this and other fundraising initiatives. TM/CM/AL to set up a meeting over the 	<p>TM/CM/AL</p>

next few weeks. Also need to recruit a new treasurer within this meeting.	
<p>6. <u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>P7 photos</u> – this year we had planned to move to a different photographer. Coldswell photography have offered a P7 package for school leavers which will include P1-6 photos. VM asked the PC if this is something that should be offered to parents of P7 pupils across the board. JD highlighted that some P7 parents have organised their photo package and private shoots with Coldswells. The PC group agreed that this opportunity should be shared with the wider P7 parental group. • VM also highlighted that they are actively and creatively planning for this year's end of year P7 celebrations which are likely to be affected by ongoing restrictions. These will be shared in due course. 	VM
7. Date of next meeting – 10 th May 2021	