

Fox Covert Parent Council meeting - 11/10/2023

Attendees:

Douglas Bruce – Head teacher

Joanne Doddie – principal teacher

Lesley-Ann Wright – principal teacher

Ali Connolly – Chairperson –

Joanne Farrell – Vice Chairperson

Graham Patrick – Treasurer

Allison Warnock – secretary

Louise Duncan

Daisy Johnstone

Sarah Sherriff

Mehran Sorkhaey Oskaey

Lisa Simpson

Kirsty Cassidy

Vicky Patrick

Keron Menzies

Cllr Ed Thornley

Michelle Hofmeyr

Mhairi Kelly

Flora Allison-Morton

Head Teacher report: Mr Douglas Bruce

It's been a very busy first term..

Staff update:

The new business manager Nicola Gordon has started.

Kirsty Gardener is now a permanent staff member.

Mrs Adams the P3 teacher is leaving. The recruitment drive is on for a new P3 teacher and Mr Bruce will keep parents up to date with any news.

The school is wanting to improve parental engagement and is asking parents to complete the questionnaire which has been emailed out.

Recent parent events for P1 have taken place - 'stay and play' & 'support your P1 with their homework' evening.

Afraid with the current building problems it won't be possible to include parents in the children's assemblies as we are struggling for space to accommodate them.

After the pupils voting in the new House Captains the children have chosen to tackle litter ... they have worked out a class roster for playground litter picking which is going well.

The school football team is delighted with the new kit, thank you to all involved in organising it.

Students from Craigmount High School are running touch rugby with Fox Covert pupils, and they are really enjoying it.

Unfortunately, there is no new update on the building work being carried out. The ceiling is being reinforced at the minute.

Mr Bruce will email out any update to parents.

Due to the fact no hall is available for gym, Mr Bruce has asked the council for yoga mats and wet weather gear among other things for the children to support with their PE time & activities.

The trim trail must be removed as it has become unsafe for the children. To replace with a new one, it would have cost £6,000 so unfortunately it has to be completely removed at a cost of £1,200. Which has to come from the school budget.

The trim trail will be replaced with 'loose parts' – which will consist of treated planks of wood and big blocks/steppingstones that the children can use to build/use for numerous activities/imaginative play.

After school club has been awarded outdoor storage which the school can use.

The menu for next term cannot be replicated on parent pay so you have to check the emails sent from school with the menu that is being offered:

Hot offer:

Vegan sausage/ pizza or soup

The Parent Council (PC) had asked Mr Bruce & the staff for a wish list that the PC could fund. They have decided on the following:

- Maths Box for every class – this will provide resources to support pupils.
- PE box for every corridor that will contain coloured cones/ balls etc.
- Music service license called Charanga.
- Equipment to support the children in their outdoor learning – big bright cones/magnifying glasses/ high vis jackets etc (Ms Doddie will provide a list)

Mrs Hindle is pricing up all the above.

Principal Teacher Report : Ms Joanne Doddie

The new drive for outdoor learning which will be rolled out over the next 3 years has begun...

A parent pay message will be sent out to let the parents know when their children will be heading for outdoor learning. This will continue into term 2 (after October break).

This will consist of 'up the hill' or it could be on site. It will eventually be in all weather conditions so the correct clothing/footwear will be needed. To reduce expectations on families there will be wellies & waterproof clothing available from the school for any pupils that need it.

We will be looking at how parents/families can support the school through donating wellies in good condition – this will be communicated through class list/parent pay.

The children will be included in risk assessments for the outdoor learning areas, so they can have their input.

Kirsten Max & Andrew Bagnell from Loose Parts training ran an outdoor learning charter 3 months before covid hit. So, the school is looking forward to using the skills and ideas they passed on.

As the outdoor learning progresses trips to Cramond & other local attractions will be looked at.

The staff want all to be engaged and are looking forward to Loose Parts training coming back next March to run the staff through a training session up Corstorphine hill.

Principal Teacher report: Ms Wright

The foxy files are to be replaced by online Learning Journals which is the same format currently used in the nursery.

Ms Wright, Ms Clarke (P1), Ms Gallagher (P4) & Mr Moodie (P7) are supporting this trial.

P1, P2, P4 & P7a are the classes that will be trialling this online. Parents will be

Parents will be contacted with their login details after the October break.

They will be able to see some of their children's work that the teacher has uploaded. The children can upload work they have chosen themselves.

There will be areas that you can make comments but the teachers have asked not to use the comments area as a communication tool (don't say they've lost their book etc).

The children's targets will be clear to see on the learning journal.

Action for reps* Please can all the parents in the classes that are trialling the Learning Journals send in their feedback on what they think of the platform.

Treasurer – Graham Patrick

Document attached of the treasurer report. You can see all transactions on the report.

Highlighted are previous years fund raising and what has worked well in years gone by.

Action* - Cllr Ed Thornley is going to check grants available to the PC.

Ali Connolly has investigated Tesco's blue chip box collection. This is a lengthy process – it can take 12/18 months and the PC have to put forward a fundraising idea that would catch the interest of customers.

The PC voted that the Lagganlia bus for next year (2024) will be paid for by the PC at a cost of £1,290. This cost has dramatically increased over the last 2 years so MS Doddie will be booking it asap.

The PC are donating £100 to each class to support any trips/resources for the teacher. P7 have chosen to use their £200 to go towards their prom.

Any future trips will be posted on the school website to give as much notice to the parents (especially those wanting to be a parent helper and need plenty of notice for work).

Fundraising Kirsty Cassidy

Delighted to say that due to the school not having access to our hall – the Leonardo Hotel have offered their function room to us for free.

108 tickets have been sold for P1-P4/5

84 tickets sold for P5-P7

P4/5 can use their tickets for which ever disco they want to attend (not both discos!)

Christmas cards are going well and remember to put your order in by midnight on 18th October

Present Room will be going ahead this year – awaiting a date confirmation and then we'll have people/addresses where you can drop off your donations.

Looking ahead after Christmas break – ideas for future fundraising ideas –

Race night/Quiz night/ ladies lunch – details to follow

Amazon Smile has closed so the fundraising team are looking 2 sites:

Easy Fund Raising or Give as You Live – similar idea to Amazon smile

Questions:

Green Flag – Eco Group maintaining the flag – looking ahead at next meeting as to what the children could do to continue to support the school for its Eco awareness along with Litter picking what else could they do to up their level of eco friendly ideas?

