

Notes from Hill of Banchory Primary Parent Council Meeting – 26th January 2022

Attendance:

Mike Killeen (Chair)

Deborah Burr

Shona Patterson

Fiona Melville

Katie Wight

Agenda:

1. School update (DB)
2. Update from PTA meeting (SP)
3. Finance (KR)
4. Questions for parent council
5. AOB

Updates:

1. Mrs Burr gave an update on the current situation regarding Covid. She explained the process by which the school is updated on the latest thinking, informed of the current guidelines and on how those are applied.

The Scottish First Minister has recently changed the general public guidance, but currently there are no planned changes to the current risk assessment for pupils or staff. If any changes are made, the school will inform parents.

The last few weeks have seen large numbers of pupils and staff affected and parents continue to receive communications if it affects their child.

2. Mrs Patterson updated the group on the meeting held by the PTA to engage with more parents and broaden those involved in PTA activities. Some great ideas around reprising the woodland walk and about getting the pupils to help identify some things to fund raise for. It was felt that if the school community was clear what fundraising was going to support, that could also help build engagement. More ideas to come, so looking forward to future updates.
3. Apologies presented as Karen was unable to make the meeting
4. Three questions / suggestions were made from the attendees
 - a. Does the school have an update / ability to influence the situation with the work planned for the all-weather pitch? The parent council is invited to the Banchory Community Forum, so is able to present the views of the school community at that meeting.
 - i. MK took an action to do so at the next community forum
 - b. Whilst current restrictions prevent large group meetings (movie nights, school disco's etc), has the PTA thought about trying a virtual movie night to help bring the pupils together? Maybe buying a ticket which comes with bag of popcorn etc.
 - i. Good suggestion and will be passed on to the PTA, also opportunity to engage with the HoB Co-Op who are keen to help support the school.
 - c. The question was posed had the school thought about getting the pupils to create ecobricks? (see link <https://www.ecobricks.org/welcome.php>).

- i. This led onto point d)
- d. A parent had raised a concern on the level of litter in and around the school and did the school have any plans or contacts with local businesses or organisations to encourage reduction in waste etc. This tied nicely in with the idea of ecobricks, suggestions on engagement with the Co-Op on suggestions around packaging and recycling and a few other actions.
 - i. DB to contact HoB Co-Op regarding a joint initiative around litter / waste / bins / recycling
 - ii. MK to contact local litter picking organisations to see if they have any ideas on bins covers etc
 - iii. DB / SP to mention the idea of ecobricks to staff to see if we could start an initiative amongst the pupils to recycle waste in this manner
 - iv. Communication in school newsletter to encourage any parents with ideas to come forward to help grow this initiative

5. There was no other AOB