

## **Gordon Primary Parent Council**

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Present (on Teams): Mr Wilson, Mr Devlin, Mrs Cargill, Roni, Katie, Mariana, Yvonne, Maria, Fiona, Anna, Louise

Roni welcomed everyone. Everyone present confirmed they were happy for Roni to take on the role of Chair.

### **Treasurers Report**

Made 39p interest. Current total is £3,145.93. Expecting payment from Rag Bin (remittance used to go to Maggie, Mr Wilson to check if remittance at the school).

### **Headteacher report**

Staff absences at Earlston mean Gordon sees less of Mr Wilson and Mr Devlin.

Various activities happening:

- Self-evaluation being looked at within nursery
- Staff looking at curricular planning and learning journeys. The learning journeys have now been reviewed and the format changed.
- Mr Devlin and Mrs Catterall have trained Additional Needs Assistants (ANAs) at Gordon with regards to Health and Wellbeing (HWB) intervention. Some pupils will be involved in 1-to-1 sessions. Would like to deliver more. One of the inset days next week (Thursday) will focus on nurture and developing a plan for the next few years, as well as developing packages of support which will be available to children e.g. assistance if bereaved, etc.
- Ideas being developed around sharing information digitally so that children's work can be seen by their parents. Info going out to parents to request volunteers for a small group to work on this.
- Many changes in relation to Covid - ongoing
- Appointment has been made to the administration post, and will start soon.

### **Christmas**

Covid guidance says no singing indoors; no voice projection i.e. drama. Staff have also noticed a bit of a drop in pupils' numeracy and literacy, so do not want to do 'full-on' Christmas performance. Considering taking a couple of children out of the class at a time and asking them question/ letting them talk about meaning of Christmas, etc. Propose to record against a green screen, then join up the footage with appropriate music and backgrounds, then live stream on Teams. Pupils can log in through their Glow account to watch. The School is allowed to have Christmas parties (for each class bubble), but no

church service. Santa will have to be creative with his delivery of presents! Mrs Lochhead and Mrs Cargill to discuss.

## **Follow up from last meeting**

**Picnic benches** – all schools received an email yesterday from supplier. If we can tell them how many benches we want and what style they can provide a quote. Mr Wilson to discuss with teachers and let Maria know on Friday.

**School photographer** – after complaints about the school photographer from Gordon and Earlston, some enquiries were made locally. Long list of requirements (see Parent Council email) meant Mariana has not found anyone to take over. Roni to follow up and discuss with Mr Wilson (NB photographer would not be allowed in to the school under current restrictions).

**Sports tops** - need to find a supplier for sports tops for the different teams when they compete in inter-school competitions. Information in email – Roni to follow up.

**Library software** needs to be paid for this year (invoice is in email). Noted we are not using the software to its full potential – buying new books may be a better use of the money. Library was tidied out last summer and needs updated with new books. Cataloguing may need adult assistance, although junior librarians have done a good job tidying up.

Noted that £100 is set aside for new books every year. Mr Wilson will talk to the junior librarians to consider a list of books to order. Noted Amazon have good deals, as do Brown's books (20% discount through library software) and The Works.

**Outdoor play** - can we try crowd funding (Just Giving) to support major outdoor play equipment? Roni to look at other funding opportunities as well. Localities fund unlikely to support school projects, unless significant use for community. Bid for outdoor spaces funding may be possible? Two suppliers made recommendations for a trim trail: one costing between £8,000 - £13,000; the other £25,000. Could get the children involved in writing letters etc. Mr Devlin also to follow up. Roni and Maria to discuss Just Giving site. All to consider wording for background to Just Giving page (and ask the children? Mr Wilson to ask P7s).

**Low cost play equipment** would also be useful – consider what would be best to buy. Pass list to Maria to order. £100 per class proposed; consider circus skills equipment; things that will last?

**Reminder to use Easy Fundraising** when ordering online (link also in Facebook). Maria to send paragraph to Mr Wilson to be included in the newsletter.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gordonprimary/?fbclid=IwAR02vfEvcPyjYuuuCeVzsQ6tzDm5I7wyknag2siOj\\_AGMYnT7iXvviG4eZs](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gordonprimary/?fbclid=IwAR02vfEvcPyjYuuuCeVzsQ6tzDm5I7wyknag2siOj_AGMYnT7iXvviG4eZs)

## Comments from parents

**Outdoor PE** – concern from parents over very wet pupils (although kids enjoy being outside –key is to have coats on in the rain, and then be able to be take coats off and be warm and dry once inside). Noted change in regulations mean PE can be inside again if wet.

**Classes have been cold** – windows all open due to COVID guidance. Now guidance states classrooms should be 17°C, so ventilation will be managed accordingly.

**Concern over packed lunches being eaten in the rain.** There has been a misunderstanding, so Mr Wilson will clarify in his newsletter. Currently have two lunch sittings: P1-4 have lunch indoors first, remainder of school outside. Once younger ones finish, older ones can come back in and eat. If children want to have their lunch outside, they are allowed. Children to be reminded that they have the option.

**Playground assistants** – can parents come in to help since there are three areas to watch? Ongoing challenge at Gordon. There is no-one extra to help at present. Teachers need their break. Admin available for first aid at break and supporting lunch at lunch-time. ANAs mostly used in the classroom, so need their break at the same time. Parents cannot take on this role at present, due to COVID. Could be considered in the future, but parents would have to have PVGs, training, etc.

Could this be raised with SBC as a security issue (maybe install security cameras)? Can the Parent Council contact SBC on behalf of the school? Noted that children can be sneaky and will leave if they want to, although cameras could be useful to review issues. Could try contacting Kevin McCall.

**Appreciation** - various members of the Parent Council expressed appreciation of all the effort that has been put in by the school staff. Children are enjoying being back at school with their friends.

## Actions:

- Mr Wilson to check if Rag Bin remittance at the school
- Mrs Lochhead and Mrs Cargill to discuss Christmas
- Mr Wilson to discuss picnic bench requirements with teachers and let Maria know on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- Roni to follow up on list of requirements for school photographer and discuss with Mr Wilson
- Roni to follow up on sports tops
- Mr Wilson will talk to the junior librarians to consider a list of books
- Roni and Mr Devlin to look at funding opportunities for outdoor play
- Maria and Roni to discuss Just Giving site for crowd funding
- Mr Wilson to ask P7s about text for Just Giving page
- List of low cost play equipment to be passed to Maria to order
- Maria to send text to Mr Wilson for the newsletter about the Easy Fundraising page
- Mr Wilson to clarify lunch arrangements (in newsletter and with the pupils)