

Bruntsfield Parent Council meeting 2 February 2022 (via zoom)

- RC opened the meeting noting it was quorate and welcomed the everyone to the new term.
- Minutes from 17 November 2021 – approved

Role changes and Co-opted roles

- New co-opted roles:
 - Many thanks to David Banks for his help in setting up clubs in first term
 - Events co-opted role – Kirstin was nominated and seconded and duly appointed by the meeting.
 - Clubs co-ordinator Stefan proposed by Jay, Seconded by Jenni and duly appointed by the meeting.
- The meeting considered a number of funding applications which had been circulated prior to the meeting and these were all passed.
- Funding application passed.

Clubs (update from Stefan)

- Stefan praised the team effort from the clubs team and thanked all the volunteers.
- Clubs are up and running going well with 200 places plus 100 football.
- Choir starting well.
- We will address waiting lists hopefully in new academic year.
- Room in choir, ballet, young engineers.
- There has been a price increase. Clubs filled 700-800 places pre-pandemic now only 200 so as we get more spaces we can change prices. We do offer concession and provide equipment.
- Small loss on first term. Should make money in term 2.

Headteacher's update (CK)

- CK is meeting Stefan to help with policies and risk assessments.
- Clubs make the school a richer, fuller environment.
- Active Schools back on.
- Cycle to school going well.
- Advert has gone out for crossing guide. Hard to fill places.
- Scots week went well and the children enjoyed the activities.
- International languages week – 33 languages in the school.
- Lunches back in hall
- Safer internet week coming up.
 - Tips for managing internet safety – share amongst parents.
- Junior road safety planning is ongoing. Looking at new highway code changes.

- Expecting 3 x 25 P1 classes in 2022/23. Number slightly falling off. Get your applications in early.
- Challenging to manage staff absences but managing.
- CK talked through the D&I agenda: pupils are looking at race, gender and disability over the coming months.
- Consultation on staggered day – look at an in-between timing options to close gap. Staff prefer 0830 for older children.
- CK answered questions from the attendees:
 - Buddy system: Gathering not allowed so buddy system can't be used (lunches is the exception).
 - PE – are pupils getting 2 hours a week? CK will check.
 - Strong desire for P1 – P3 parents to get an idea of how school works properly
- RC thanked CK and all the teachers.

Playground project (LG)

- LG met with Ms Lamond
- Playground has two uses – recreational and curriculum delivery.
- Playground is too small so we can't fill the space we new structures – need to maximise it.
- Asking for parents with gardening knowledge to help planning
- Way to show what we can achieve, We don't want to completely transform the space – make small improvements to enhance health and well-being and keep within budget (collaborate parent council and school)
- Get pupil views and feedback.

Gurpinder on safer schools and streets

- Congestion of cars around ends of Montpelier. Big issue for children, adults and other road users. How do we improve that? Emails and letters aren't working.
- Parking warden is next. What else can we do to try to encourage good behaviour?
- Whatsapp?
- Small notes on cars?
- Options:
 - CEC for follow-on measures
 - Be realistic about what PC can do.

- Can we put up signage? CK tried but it was challenging to get approvals.

Zaki – A+ group update

- Zaki reprised the A+ group and its aims for the meeting.
- Building on work in school on diversity
- Possible sessions for white parents to listen and learn.
- Please use parent council website, find about the group
- Use translation resources.
- Really good discussions and progress so far
- Focus on the need for black and Asian parents to have a strong community.
- Inclusion of heritage in the school curriculum.
- Better visibility on BLM resources. who leads anti-racism? How will good resources benefit the children? Impact of inset days
- Huge interest in the group. Need help to publicise.
- Zaki moving on as children leave school but will remain as professional adviser.
- How do children want their heritage to be represented? Need to ask them.

Events

- Hopeful we can get events back up and running
- School community survey coming round on options for events.

Councillor Ross – update on zebra crossings

- Report will go to 31 March CEC meeting.
- Parent Council has offered support to encourage CEC to look at that issue

Councillor Watts supported the need for mini-zebra crossings. We need tests sites to prove they are safe and encourage better take-up.

AOB

- Next meeting 29 March
- Alternate days to enable better attendance.
- Early notice that the Chair and Secretary roles are coming up as Ros and Jae will leave their posts at the end of the academic year.