

## **Minutes from Parent Council meeting on 7.12.15**

### **Present**

D.Swingle, G. de Felice, S. Cooke, A. Livie, D. Davis, C. Burns, R. Murphy, F. Hollands

### **Apologies**

W.Hay, C. Hunter, Miss Noble

### **1.Pupil Report**

Pupil Council went around each class to discuss learning and what they would like to do more or less off. They also asked how the Parent Council could help, and they filmed the interviews. The results were that a lot of pupils wanted to do more maths (!) and many were not aware of the role of the Parent Council. This is something that can be looked at during the next PC meeting.

### **2.Head Teacher's Report**

- Talked about improving spelling across the school and the increase in spelling homework.
- P3 had Katie Morag visits and were working on a puppet show for the infants and nursery.
- Lots of Christmas trips, Nativities, services and Carol Concerts taking place or coming up.
- Working on the School Improvement Plan and curriculum learning. A meeting will take place on 5th January across the cluster to discuss planning and best use of resources. Staff are also working on social studies across the cluster; geography, history and modern studies. Issues across all schools are trying to improve topics in composite classes and fact finding skills so that all pupils in secondary school have similar abilities. The plan will be implemented between January and March and if successful will be rolled out across the cluster. Mrs Thomson (acting PT) is also working at council level on this.
- Mrs Hollands is also working on making the iJournal better, with better reporting to parents, more personalised and overall more meaningful. 10 pilot schools are putting

the iJournal online which allows parents to upload photos at home and comment on things. Obvious safety issues are important with this. At the moment it's just Nursery parents at Williamston but the feedback has been positive so far. The hope is that it will do away with end of year reports. Dawn asked about data backups in case of crashes. The company which is developing iJournal is Edinburgh based.

### **3.Cllr Fitzpatrick's Report**

- Network Rail work to be completed by end of January, and the electrical point of access is to be located in Brucefield Industrial Estate.
- Education planning meetings have taken place. A new school is being built in Armadale. There is a focus on digital learning and teaching across Scotland.
- Community Garden project has been given a grant of £1200. An essential environmental survey has been done.

### **4.AOB**

- Diyana raised about slipping down league tables. Mrs Hollands replied that every year they revise expectations which are constantly increasing as they have ambitious goals for learning. HMIE look for validated self assessments where heads from other schools come in and make observations etc.
- Alan asked how can the PC help the children more and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Date for next meeting is Monday 8th February at 7pm.