

FRIENDS OF DURRIS and CROSSROADS NURSERY
Minutes of Meeting held via Google Meet on 5th June 2020

Present: Lynne Giles, Sarah Stewart, Elaine Ingram, Dawn Rippiner, Catriona Woodburn, Aynsley Watson, Bridget Rhodes, Claire Stutter

Apologies:

	<u>Actions</u>
<p><u>1. Attendance</u> DR explained that due to the format of this meeting it had been decided that only core members of the Parent Council should be allowed to attend.</p> <p><u>2. Head Teacher Update</u> LG started by thanking all staff and parents for supporting the learning during lockdown – very difficult to juggle – so huge thanks, everyone’s hard work is much appreciated.</p> <p>LG advised she has a weekly meeting for all HTs with director Laurence Findlay with updates on national advice. Main advice is the two government documents published so far – now councils are working out how to implement them.</p> <p>LG awaits the Council generic risk assessment to work on for Durriss and Crossroads. This is needed before staff enter the school and before the children start.</p> <p>Online learning will continue until end of term – however from 15 June it will move to weekly grids being uploaded, this is due to staff accessing school regularly to ready it for pupil return in August.</p> <p>There will be 3 classes next session – infants Mrs Hannaford/Mrs Wallace, middle stages Miss Peach and upper stages Mrs Giles and Mrs Wallace. Exact split not yet confirmed.</p> <p>There are a lot of factors impacting the return to school which will be discussed but no plans will be released to parents until the Council have approved them.</p> <p><u>Leavers arrangements for P7s</u> Have emailed parents for photos, plan to make an iMovie and have a plan for the P7s to record something for the whole school to share - a surprise!</p> <p>Will also be asking all other children to record something for the P7s next week Plan to send them all a card from the school.</p> <p><u>New P1s – plans for introduction to school</u> Transition plans are well underway. So far videos from all teaching staff to say hello/story, video tour of the school and P6 buddy videos posted. Starting this week – weekly story with activities to work on. Stories linked to starting school and friendship. This will be weekly until end of term. There will be no physical visits to the school before the end of term. Mrs Hannaford will also be recording individual videos for nursery children in the coming weeks. Discussion over whether photos of P1s should be circulated especially for children who are not at Crossroads.</p> <p>Action – Lynsey Hannaford to phone new P1 children individually before end of term. EI to send a wee ‘Getting to know you’ activity out next week – this will help LH structure phone calls.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EI/ LH</p>

How much input would the school like from the Parent Forum e.g. what days can parents support their children at home? What are parents' thoughts on children being at school? Some families will undoubtedly want to keep their children at home.

Huge number of factors in organising the return – including siblings, transport, staff availability and class composition. We will not be asking which days suit – sorry, wouldn't be feasible to accommodate. Intention is to try to keep siblings in on the same days and to try to keep P1 and P7 together as they are most vulnerable age groups. Initial plans have been submitted to the Council for approval but still need to know about transport and see if physical lay out works. The children will be in for a few days each and the rest will be blended learning.

Queried whether use could be made of Crossroads but LG confirmed that there was no extra staff so spreading out did not help matters.

LG has a future skype meeting with the legal dept in coming weeks to answer such questions such as - when children are not sent in, how does this affect their attendance on the register.

CW raised concerns over families who may be struggling with the current situation and how the school can assist them. Discussion over how you identify those in need of help. LG confirmed that this is something the staff discuss weekly.

Action – to be covered in general parental questionnaire.

Action - if possible make another video once school has been altered – share with all pupils to help prepare them for going back.

EI
LG

Are siblings likely to be in school on the same days?

Trying to make this happen as appreciate it makes things much easier to organise as a working parent, but no guarantee as plans are not approved yet.

For nursery – awaiting our staffing but will be trying to tie in with siblings' school days.

Not much wriggle room to keep class groups together once you take in siblings and P1/P7.

What provision is being made for teachers' children when they return to work?

Possible access to hub – but unsure of this at present.

Will Seesaw & Google Classroom be used going forward? Does the school need anything else to aid the teachers? Would the school need help from e.g. parents/ volunteers to find extra resources for children when studying at home?

Yes, we will be using this. Currently investigating cost of Seesaw Premium which we are using on trial now. This allows us to have up to 5 teachers on one class – helpful for nursery and for job-share classes. This may be something that the Parents' Committee can help with. Awaiting information on costing at present.

Action - To investigate use of Seesaw family rather than Seesaw class – as can be tricky with multiple stages in one household (but unlikely to be possible). Also request to post work the night before, especially for younger children, to allow parents to get organised (if they wish) as younger children may well require more support/resources to be organised.

LG/ Mrs
Wallace
All teaching
staff

Infection control – what are the current plans for social distancing/ hand washing/ classrooms, etc?

This will all be detailed in the risk assessment. Lots to consider and still awaiting advice on several factors. LG confirmed that the children will have socially distanced desks with work trays on them – will be asking parents to help provide items for this

(glue stick/pens/pencils etc).

Discussions over provision of stationery. Felt there was not a need for the Parent Committee to use funds to provide a set for each child, but funds would be available for anyone in need of support.

There will be staggered arrival/departures, staggered break and lunchtimes. May shorten lunch time slightly to allow for staggered afternoon break as children will be more static in own class/bubble. Awaiting a final decision on catering – dinners or packed lunches.

Miss Peach's class will be in the hall to allow more children in.

Handwashing: will have a routine for this as we did in the weeks leading up to lockdown e.g. wash hands on entering the building/before break/after break/before lunch/ after lunch/ before going home and after any visits to the toilet.

Looking into storage options now as a large amount of furniture will need to be removed temporarily to allow for social distancing measures.

Action - LG to investigate possibility of storing furniture off site, since confirmed not possible to store in non-council properties due to insurance issues. Considering storage at Crossroads.

LG

Action - LG to investigate possibility of other hand soap as do not want lots of individual bars of soap coming into school but appreciate the soap can be harsh, especially with increased washing frequency. Update – this is council approved soap, however children will be able to bring in a named moisturiser to use if desired.

LG

Has the school attendance generally been good from all children? If not, is anything required to help families e.g. extra IT? WhatsApp help group? Different apps?

School in contact with children who are not posting and supporting. Wi-fi can be an issue as can sharing devices and multiple Seesaw classes. Don't want to introduce further IT, have had Teams with P6/7 and may look to use this in the middle stages from August.

Action – cover IT in parental survey

EI

Hopefully once back to schoolwork can also be set which is more reinforcement and extends from work covered in school, allowing for more progress and pace of learning should be better. The amount of interaction with online learning once set, from staff, will be limited. They will be teaching most of the time and prepping class lessons and online learning – will not have the capacity to be monitoring the online engagement to anything like the current level.

LG reminded us that huge amounts of learning still going on in this environment even if not on the curriculum as parents are prime educators and this should not be underestimated. However, school education is face to face – so has been and will continue to be affected until we are all back.

Hope to get routines set quickly on return so they have minimal impact on time in the building – hand washing etc. so it becomes the normal school routine for the foreseeable future.

Will be sending our Parental Engagement letter/questionnaire at the beginning of next session to help us with our knowledge of lockdown experiences for our children.

Discussed possibility of further What's App groups for help with IT/ schoolwork but felt that was probably overload.

Action - we should remind parents that they can use the current class groups to ask questions and to support work.

DR

How can we as a parent council support you? Is there anything you need us to do or co-ordinate?

When LG has the full completed risk assessment PC can help to spread word for supplies when children start back, e.g.there will be a need for full set of clean clothes daily (named of course!) and not necessarily school uniform. May be other things, but until the plan and risk assessment are finalised it is difficult to say at present.

Continuing to support children with online learning, in August, as teacher support/engagement in this area will be greatly reduced due to face to face teaching commitments.

Storage – currently being investigated by business manager from academy but if it doesn't pan out will need some type of container to store excess furniture in until things back to normal.

Transport is a massive issue for some authorities, Shire being one of them as such a large authority with lots of rural schools. Currently being looked at.

Agreed that it would be useful to issue a parental questionnaire to pick up several points discussed which may help with formulation of plans. Survey to cover wellbeing, transport, uniform, IT and supplies. This should enable parents to advise whether they have any concerns in terms of these areas and to confirm whether they would be prepared to transport children to school instead of using school transport as this may impact the plans. PC to agree over next week set of questions and EI to formulate questionnaire.

PC as whole and EI.

4. Nursery update

Same issues as school. Big change is that the 1140 hours revoked, from August most hours can offer is 600 which equates back to the 3 hr 10 min sessions per day, sessions can be shorter if staff an issue. Cannot offer lunches, so cannot offer full days.

Must return in bubbles but because there is lots of outside space could have two bubbles outside. If there are groups in the morning and afternoon need at least one hour between groups to allow for cleaning. Hoping to have just morning sessions but need staffing confirmed. Contracts for permanent staff will stay because will go back to 9-3 setting. Take up to max of 16. Bubbles for nursery 1:5. Early years get different set of guidance. Accepted social distancing in nursery not appropriate.

Council are also not authorising split placements so the numbers of children attending nursery may change and response to survey asking for confirmation of attendance has been low.