

TIPPERTY Parent Group

Meeting Minutes

19th January 2021

Present: Mrs Harrison, Mrs Hewitt, Mrs Longley, Mrs Gillies, Mrs Elrick-Stewart, Mrs Irvine, Mrs Dew, Miss Buchan, Cllr. Davidson.

1. **Apologies** from Cllr Kloppert, Cllr Mcallister, Cllr Owen, Mrs Park.

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Thank you to all who got involved with the Santa Sleigh/Cash for Kids activity in December. This was a great success for the Parent Group. We hope that this brought some joy and excitement to the children at Tipperty School ahead of Christmas.

The school were pleased to announce that they raised £600 profit from the Christmas raffle. This was an excellent achievement, especially under the Covid circumstances.

The courtyard is coming along nicely. We are now at a stage to be thinking about ordering and choosing plants to add. It was agreed that Mrs Dew will speak to the children to see what they would like to see within the courtyard and then source and purchase the plants. A quote of £209.95 has been received for 6 hardwood seats for the courtyard area from WP Hardwood Limited. It was noted that the previous seats from other suppliers had been unsatisfactory on two occasions. The Parent Council agreed to contact WP Hardwood to arrange ordering the hardwood seats.

3. **Chairman's Report**

Under the circumstances, the Tipperty Parent group would like to acknowledge the great work that the teachers are providing for the children during this lockdown. Thank You!

4. **Treasurer's Report**

The balance is sitting at £140.08. We are not expecting any money to come into the account.

5. **Head Teacher's Report**

Although it has been a different start to Term 3 from what we would have anticipated, I hope that the children are making the most of this period of remote learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of the school in these challenging times. I appreciate the pressures families will be under at present and I would like to remind all parents and carers to contact the school if we can be of help in any way. We are currently gathering parental feedback on our Remote Learning by means of a Microsoft form survey. Once we have received the feedback from this survey, we will be able to plan more effectively for the weeks ahead.

I would like to reassure all parents of P7 pupils that we continue to be in contact with Ellon Academy with regard to the Transition process for the P7s throughout this period of increased restrictions. We will communicate any transition information to you as soon as it is received.

At the last Parents Group Meeting we mentioned the fact that the free Seesaw app was no longer to be used in Aberdeenshire schools from 20th November 2020. I am delighted that the Marvellous Me

app has been identified as a suitable alternative as it meets the relevant requirements in terms of GDPR. We are currently gathering parental permissions for its use, and will begin to use the app as soon as all permissions have been received.

Since the last meeting we have held a successful Online School Fundraising Quiz which raised £70 and the Christmas School Raffle which raised £600 after all the prizes were paid for. We were grateful to receive donations for prizes from the Ythan Bakery and Jenny Gray Makeup. Other prizes were purchased from local businesses or donated by families of Tipperty School. Thank you to all parents and community members who supported the school by buying raffle tickets and donating prizes.

In early December we had an enjoyable visit from the Round Table Santa to collect the toys for Cash for Kids. The children appeared to greatly enjoy the experience. Thank you to Mrs Longley for organising this on the behalf of the Parents Group.

We are looking forward to our Virtual Scottish Celebration next Tuesday and hope to see as many children as possible on our Teams call on this date. We are delighted that Mrs Kenyon will also be supporting the school with this. We

also look forward to listening to the children's Scottish poems that they will be sharing on Google Classroom next week.

Since we returned to school in August 2020, the staff have been working together to provide a variety of opportunities for the learners of Tipperty School, working within the current guidelines. A particular focus has been placed on Outdoor Learning and we have been able to offer Bikeability to p5-7, use of the fire pit, a trip to Forvie Nature reserve for the older pupils, use of the Outdoor Courtyard area and the Gardening Group have been working on planting vegetables in the back garden. We hope to continue to make good use of the Outdoor area for learning activities as soon as the children can return to school.

Since the last meeting, an issue has been identified with Road Safety on Logie Road. The issue is with school bus and car parking and children crossing the road unaccompanied to meet their parents. I have recently shared the updated School Travel Plan with all Parents (in December 2020). We have also been fortunate to have a visit from PC Gillies as part of her work with the School Liaison Officer to reinforce awareness of Road Safety with the pupils in November 2020. Prior to Christmas we requested that all parents meet their children at the school side of the road, and the P1-4 children were only dismissed from the playground when their parent was at the correct side of the road. I would like to consider whether we should contact the Transport Department again to advise us of any further measures the school can take to try to ensure safety on Logie Road, when we are operating normally again.

Due to the current restrictions, we have not yet been able to arrange the community engagement for the defibrillator that we had hoped to arrange. We will be sure to act upon this point as soon as such gatherings are permissible. I would like to thank Mrs Park for taking on the monitoring of the defibrillator this year. I would like to bring to the attention of the Parents Group the need for another parent to take on this important role as of June/July 2021.

6. Road Safety- There are still concerns of the safety of the children leaving school on Logie Road due to passing traffic not necessarily associated with the school. We realise that there is little that we can do regarding other traffic, but the school have reminded parents to please collect children

from the gate. During the meeting, a parent raised the possibility/suggestion of parents being able to stand on the playground rather than the road at home time. The school will consider this as we need to maintain social distancing. Councillor Davidson said that she would contact the roads department regarding the bus space and the query about whether there should be any parking restrictions/yellow lines on Logie Road.

7. Planning and Fundraising- The Parent Group would like to change the way that we fundraise to ensure that all parents and children of Tipperty School can feel involved and valued. It was agreed in the meeting that the way forward will be to 'see a need and respond'. The school staff were asked during the meeting if there were any current issues that need supporting. They responded by saying that the schools iPads are not up to date for the apps that are now being used, for example, they cannot be updated to a higher IOS which the apps require to work. A query was raised by the Parent Council as to whether the iPads the school were previously purchased by the Parent Council could be resold by the Parent Council.

Christine McLennan at Aberdeenshire has since confirmed that all iPads in school are assets of Aberdeenshire, and cannot be resold. After some investigation, we will need to purchase the iPads through Aberdeenshire council at a cost of £290 per iPad. This is so that we can fall in line with the Aberdeenshire Council policy of each tablet having an asset number which in turn allows us access to IT support.

We will now make a plan in collaboration with all parents on how we can achieve this as group. It was also mentioned that it would be a nice activity for the children to provide them with meadow flower seed/bulbs to plant in the borders of the field to brighten the area. The flower fundraising would be very achievable and quick to do in terms of cost and effort whereas the iPads will be a long-term goal.

8. Parent Items

No parent items were raised.

9. Date of next meeting- Tuesday 23rd Feb 2021 7pm