

Parent Council Head Teacher Report

Date of meeting **13.9.22**

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school. The children, and staff, are settling back into the new routines and we are excitedly looking forward to the year ahead.

Staffing

This session we welcomed:

Mrs Graham our Acting Principal Teacher and P4 class teacher

Miss Nixon our P5 teacher

Miss McMillan our P3 Teacher

Mr Combe our new business manager

Tr Gordon has returned to Abbeyhill to cover management time and work alongside Mrs Neos supporting Learners across the school to Close the Gap created by the impact of poverty or COVID 19.

We are still recruiting for a Breakfast Club assistant and are readvertising our PSO post.

Miss Butler was successful in the temporary PSA post

Our second PSA recommended for the post will be joining us in a few weeks and has a wealth of experience in the role already.

Nurture base

Our nurture base is now in what was the computing suit. Most of the resources have arrived and the room is slowly transforming.

PSA Allocations

The allocation of PSA support is agreed centrally using a formula applied across the whole of City of Edinburgh schools and is based on the information uploaded into SEEMis- our data base- and school roll.

In addition, we are allocated hours through a central audit process for children who may have more complex or additional need. The allocation is agreed through a central team. This can be for a short term or regularly reviewed on a longer-term basis.

Alongside the central allocation of PSA support, I invest Pupil Equity Funding to top up the support in school.

This year we have targeted PEF towards:

Support for Learning teacher time

Ready

Respectful

Responsible

Parent Council Head Teacher Report

Additional PSA hours

Additional hours to support children attending groups or activities out of school

Additional PSA time to backfill vacancies

Our team are amazing and so flexible. I cannot thank them enough for the extra effort they have made while we recruit more staff.

Empowered Learning

All P6 children have their i-pads and we are expecting some additional ones to arrive before the P1-5 group i-pads are rolled out.

Wi-Fi upgrade is due at the end of September.

Reporting to parents

We will be sending out a survey to gather your views on the new report format from last term. Please do send in your views so we are all represented.

Breakfast club

We have been unsuccessful in recruiting last week so are back at the beginning again.

Staff Training

Training this term so far has focussed on reviewing our Vision Values and Aims, and considering what is important to us in the current climate.

All staff undertook Child Protection training

Mr Hamilton and Mrs Neos have delivered training for all teaching staff on Read, Write Inc which is the Literacy programme our Primary 1-3 children follow.

All Staff have undertaken training on 'Edinburgh's Promise' which ensure that all our children's needs are being planned for, with an increased focus on care experienced children.

We are welcoming the 'Who Cares' team into School in a couple of weeks to deliver training and continue to build staff understanding of trauma informed practice.

The team will also work with children throughout the school and with stakeholders later in the programme.

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Parent Council Head Teacher Report

Dandelion Project

The outdoor learning and garden have been such a success this session. We are almost ready to harvest our crops! Mr Woodhouse will be creating a display which will be open to view in our garden on the afternoon of the 16th September.

10 Villages

No update on this action point. Carried forward to next meeting.

Colony of Artists

I am so excited to take part in my first, Abbeyhill's ninth, Colony of Artists festival. The school will be open on Friday 16th afternoon 1-4 to showcase the wonderful work this creative partnership has undertaken this session. We would love as many of you as possible to come along.

Thank you to everyone who as so generously shared their time and talent.

Parental involvement in learning.

Staff are busy completing the Jigsaw planners which each class will be sending home shortly. These will outline the planned learning in each class for the term and have some suggested activities or resources you may wish to carry out at home to reinforce and enhance learning in school.

A calendar of events- for term 1- should be with you before the meeting- keep an eye out. 😊

School Handbook

No update on this action point to share this time. Carry forward to the next meeting.

Road safety

We have a pair of very keen JRSOs- Junior Road Safety Officers- who will be leading road safety messages with the children over this session.

Next week they will survey the school on how we come to school. This important survey is then returned to the Scottish Government.

The police were out yesterday to Abbey Street and though there was an improvement we still have parent/carers driving down the road when it is closed.

Sadly, we also still have a few parents parking on the double yellow lines at the rear of the school on Brand Place or blocking the parking for Cable Co. Please park away from the school.

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Parent Council Head Teacher Report

Before she left Mrs Watt contacted the roads department and we have requested – new painted lines on Abbey Street and barriers at the rear of the school. Mr Combe will continue to follow this up.

Library

Costing for a library system has been undertaken and we are now trying to identify the best for the job we need it to do by linking in with the local librarian.

Finally thank you to all the parents and carers for supporting our lovely school so well. It is great to be back 😊