

**MINUTES of Carmondean Parent Council Meeting held on Wednesday,
7.11.18**

Present: Councillor Alison Adamson
Gordon Chree - Chair
Gillian Brunt - Vice Chair
Lynn Scott - Parent
Paul Wilson - Parent
Gillian Millar - HT
Matt Shanks - DHT
Claire Pringle - Acting PT
Aileen Jamieson - Class Teacher
Fiona Harding - PSW (Minutes)

GC thanked all present for their attendance.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

GM fed back on recent successful events and shared with meeting activities which would take place between now and the end of term.

- Parent Consultations before October break which had taken place in conjunction with the Book Fair. Fair set up in large hall this year which had proved extremely successful and yielded a great return. Good turn out on both evenings. Next consultations for parents will take place in February.
- P1 Parent Presentation - Based around Literacy and Numeracy. CP explained about the introduction of play based learning. New book bags were well received and look smart - these will eventually filter up through the whole school after being given annually to each new P1 stage. Again presentation very well attended with some pertinent questions about homework being set fortnightly.
- After School Clubs - Six week block this term with a similar block after the holidays.
- Sporting Activities -
Annual Cross Country Competition involving P6 and 7 children. A P6 boy won boys' race.
Weekly Futsal for P3 pupils - Training children to play football in a particular way.

- Enhanced Transition for P7 - A group of up to 12 identified children participates in a weekly transition sporting club at DCHS. Club is run by a WL Sports coach and children are encouraged to work with groups they would not normally work with.
- P7 Scottish Annual Standardised Assessments have gone well.
- Halloween Discos - Great fun had by all at both discos.
- RSPC Visit - P1 and Nursery had taken up their offer of free workshops on animal habitats and senses respectively.
- Viking workshop for P4 in line with their topic.
- P3 Multi Sports festival was unfortunately cancelled but will be rescheduled.
- Choir - Following our music specialist's retiral, MS has now taken this forward. Forty-five children from stages 6 and 7 are currently involved with this.
- Nurture - now up and running with an infant class each morning and upper in afternoon. Afternoon pupils recently enjoyed an outing to Jupiter Artland.
- Great achievement receiving a Sports Scotland Gold Award for all the sports we offer at CPS. Assembly last week when ex pupil Craig McLean gave a follow up on his involvement in the recent Commonwealth Games. Actual awards ceremony to take place in the Burgh Halls, Linlithgow later in November.
- Five Dutch visitors to the school last Monday. They were given a tour of the school by the House Captains, they then spoke with SMT and also observed best practice at stages 1,3 and 6.
- Risk Factory visit by P7s. GM had accompanied the children on this worthwhile trip and shared with the meeting one of the scenarios which involved a house fire and how effectively the children were able to evacuate the premises and get other people out.
- P6 visited New Lanark early in the term in conjunction with their Industrial Revolution Topic.

To do list -

- Flu vaccinations next week.
- Couple of Curriculum Evenings.
- P7 Sports Hall Athletics Competition.
- Christmas Fair, parties, pantomime, nativities and church service all before end of term.
- Basketball - Staff members accompanying 35 children through to Glasgow on Sunday 18th November to watch a professional basketball match. Run on similar lines to the football game we attended in Manchester last year.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE BY CHAIR

GC informed meeting that he expects a full update on this soon since he is constantly in touch with WLC and will contact them again by the end of next week if nothing forthcoming, as time is ticking for the Christmas resurfacing deadline to be met. Parent GB had herself fallen quite badly one morning and injured herself. Important we keep pressurising the Council.

SURVEY ON SHARED LEARNING

From the 137 filled in DHT highlighted what were the main interests of the parents - 31 interested in Shared Starts and 38 in Shared Ends, therefore we are encouraged to take these forward. Over half interested in Parent Assemblies, Nativities, Shows and Showcases linked to topics. AJ spoke briefly on the recent P5 Showcase on British landmarks where one class had been set up as a museum to view models of landmarks children had made. In Health P5 were looking at balanced diets and therefore created a cafe in the other classroom where parents were able to sample traditional foods from the different countries of the United Kingdom. P6 had also showcased their inventions linked to their Industrial Revolution topic and this proved a great opportunity for parents to see what their children are doing. We hope to extend this to more groups. Two years ago we had an open day on our Erasmus project and last year it was Developing the Young Workforce. Currently CPS has two Nativities on the go and next term we will have a P6/7 show and a P4/5 show in the final term.

QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS

GC asked what the completion rates for homework were and felt there was now a big improvement on homework being over two weeks, albeit there was sometimes a repetitive element within it. GM informed meeting that there are changes afoot around homework.

Following parent GB mentioning an Edinburgh school which is trialling a different method of teaching based on the Scandinavian approach, CP spoke about play based learning and how every activity is laid out for a purpose. She has found it particularly beneficial to extract small groups of children to focus on, whilst trying to bring a balance between play based learning alongside the curriculum. It has been so successful that our Ed Psych asked if other schools could visit CPS to observe best practice.

Mrs Scott asked about school dinners and if all the choices on the menu were offered to the children. GM supervises over lunch times and replied that this was indeed the case e.g. when soup is on it is always offered to the children whether they take it or not.

GB queried whether all sports equipment could be used by left handed pupils. AJ said that with the exception of golf clubs all other equipment was dual purpose and had this not been the case, our PE specialist would have picked up on it straight away.

NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY AT 6.30 P.M.