

Barcaldine Primary School – Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st October 2020

In Attendance – Julie Watson (JW) Gillian Stewart (GS), Helen Hope (HH), Pam Reeves (PR), Rita Windham-Wright (RW), Ainsley Cairns (AC), Sine Mackay (SM), Wendy King (WK), Marion Elkin-Greener (ME), Isla Thompson (IT)

Apologies – Elaine Robertson (ER)

1. Head Teacher Items –

Impact of Covid-19 – The first term back after the school holidays the school has been concentrating on the children's health and wellbeing, putting in place new routines, making use of the outdoor space, bothy and gazebo.

Improvement Plan – The attached pages of the schools improvement plan includes the three priorities –

- Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Learning
- Support for Learning

The priorities have been chosen as a result of the pandemic and will be beneficial if blended learning is re-introduced. The plan will be discussed with the education officer and if anyone would like more information on this please contact the school.

Clothing – Initially children were spending approximately 90% of their time outdoors, this has reduced to 50% with the onset of the autumnal weather. Over the next few weeks it was suggested that children will require more layers of clothing to keep them comfortable as temperatures continue to fall.

Children can leave their waterproof clothing and one pair of shoes at school; this can be wellies or shoes depending on each child's needs. PE is usually on Monday and Tuesday each week, on these days trainers may be preferable. The school will purchase socks to use in the event of wet feet emergencies. This can be re-visited if a better solution presents itself. The school supply of spare clothes for the younger children i.e. jogging bottoms is running low, if anyone has old clothes they would like to donate can they please contact GS.

Halloween – This year there will be no fancy dress at school, the school will arrange activities during the school day to mark the event. Ideas were discussed to celebrate the holiday in the village outwith the school.

Christmas – A number of ideas were discussed to celebrate Christmas; this included carol singing, an online family quiz and a present hunt. WK invited the children to a Christmas lunch in the chip shop on Monday 21st December; ME offered the use of the Greenie Cheeks bus. It was agreed plans should be flexible in the event of changes to current Covid-19 guidelines. Parent Council will arrange presents for children with a budget limit of approximately £5, please share any ideas with the PC.

2. **Neil's Bench** – It was agreed the memorial bench for Neil MacCorquodale will be made of recycle plastic with an engraved plaque. Once GS has obtained costs from Fusion Marine a decision will be made on funding between the Parent Council and the school. The school will contact Gillian MacCorquodale to get her thoughts on the wording for the inscription, if anyone has any thoughts of their own please let the school know.
3. **Fundraising Children in Need** – In the coming term there will be Children in Need fundraiser with children paying £1 to wear their Christmas jumpers to school.
4. **AOB** – Any additional suggestions for please let the school know. Next meeting due to take place in the New Year.