School Council Meeting Tuesday 16th June 2020

Zoom meeting, attending by parents of the committee, Mrs Murray, Mrs Johnston, Mrs McPherson and Mrs Mc Farlane

Opening by Chairperson Nicki Barrett, welcoming everyone.

Treasures Report:

Given the circumstances, no events have taken place since March.

As of 16/06/20 the balance is £8762.65

£300 paid out for p7 end of term gifts. £151.60 paid in from easy fundraising and £790.65 was raised at the movie night.

Uniform Report:

No orders have been placed due to current situation directly with the uniform shop. Information was sent out regarding placing orders online, and all orders will be placed online or in person in the shop. There will be a big query over how much they will make on the uniforms as revenue is made on sales generated within school. Also, there may be fewer people ordering new uniforms.

Once school resumes, they will look at p7 leavers hoodies.

Warehouse is now open for orders.

There will be a new style of tracksuit offered as the new one has been discontinued.

Children WILL be required to wear uniform in the new year, in line with the usual Houston primary policy. There was suggestion that trainers may be allowed instead of school shoes for comfort when doing their outdoor learning.

A coat MUST be worn to school to facilitate outdoor learning if the weather is a little bit drizzly.

Events Report:

The lets for the school events have been submitted awaiting confirmation.

Understandably there are no events planned and nothing to report since the school movie night. The Summer fun night was obviously missed and will impact on the raised funds total significantly.

The decision was made at the start of lockdown not to proceed with fundraising on any platform as parents may be struggling as it is with finances.

Head Teachers report:

Mrs Murray agreed that zoom was a brilliant platform for us to meet.

There was no “formal” school report, as energies are being focused in to how we move forward and implement a recovery plan in accordance with government guidelines and health and safety restraints.

The school role as of August will be 509 with an additional 9 to start in August.

The school has been deep cleaned and will be painted over the holiday.

The nursery intake will be massively reduced due to restriction’s and logistics.

**HOUSTON PRIMARY RECOVERY/COPING WITH COVID PLAN**

A lot of the meeting was run in a question and answer format, which has been summarised accordingly:

Mrs Murray can confirm that the School will resume EITHER on the 12th or 13th August depending on which days your children will be in on. The 2 in service days will be added to the Christmas holidays which will mean children finish now on FRIDAY 18th December.

Houston Primary School will be adopting the suggested blended model of learning that Renfrewshire council are rolling out in schools. This will mean children will attend 2 days a week (either mon/tues or thurs/Frid with Wednesday been used for protected non-contact time and deep cleaning) This will see a blended model of learning that will involve the pupils learning from home on Google classrooms. The pattern the children are in will be the same until such times as the classes can amalgamate in accordance with easing of restraints. It was agreed that google classrooms has not been the easiest to navigate and has thrown up problems, it seems to be the best. It will be refreshed in August, taking into account problems flagged. The teachers are not sure as yet about the use of additional learning packs as they aren’t clear on health and safety guidelines. This will be clarified shortly. Non-contact days will be full school days, and children will be expected to complete what they would do on a normal school day. Virtual learning will be largely consolidation of the work done in class. There will be more work available if needed, and support staff will be available as an when needed. Children with additional support needs will have the appropriate staff support within the contact days.

There will be no formal assessment to see where the children are on return, the focus will be on settling them back in and getting them back into a routine, with the usual continual assessments taking place.

The teachers appreciate the anxieties this is causing parents.

A great deal of time has been spent on the physical logistics of housing the pupils, even in a reduced capacity, given the need to maintain social distancing. They have managed to do this s o that everyone can fit in. Quite an undertaking! There will be one p7 class upstairs. They are utilising every bit of space without compromising the practicalities of the learning space, Every child will be able to learn in keeping with the required guidelines. The school appreciates that it will be inordinately hard to enforce social distancing. They will do their best.

The classes have been formed mainly to keep siblings on the same day, taking into account factors such as cousins that are collectively picked up, and children have been slotted in where they can.

A link will be sent on Monday with information regarding what days your child will be in, and follow up information from Mrs Murray will be sent with more details regarding teachers and classrooms etc. There may be an introduction video from the teacher if possible.

No parents will be allowed in the playground, accept p1 parents on the first day. School entry will be staggered, and pupils will be met at the gate by the teacher. There will be no playground line up so parents are asked to bring their children no more than 5 minutes before their allotted drop off and pick up time to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The nursery will adopt a 1-way system.

The children will be in “bubbles” within the classroom to try and facilitate social distancing. The teachers now how difficult this will be to monitor, particularly in the younger years

There will be a reduced number of staff due to shielding, so composite classes will be more prevalent.

Lunches may be shortened slightly and eaten at the desk. Playtime will be staggered. There will be a balance though as the school appreciates children need to let off steam and run around.

Fabric lunch boxes are not allowed, and Tupperware or plastic bags will be needed.

Children will need a school bag and homework folder. They may not have diaries, rather work will be set on the google classrooms format A PE kit may not be needed. This will be clarified shortly.

Hygiene will become part of the school day for children. From wiping down their desks to hand washing. Their will be blue paper towel available for hand drying and the teachers will monitor the effectiveness of the children’s handwashing/rinsing and drying. Hand gel will be available, and children can bring in their own if clearly labelled.

Masks can be worn, although not required.

There needs to be clarity on Isolation/track and trace etc. Children’s temperatures will not be taken, however if children become symptomatic, they may be isolated, and parents called. The teachers appreciate that colds and coughs are part of everyday life of school aged children and each case will be treated accordingly. The emphasis is on preserving normality across the board without taking risks.

The meeting was adjourned with Nicki thanking everyone