

Uryside Parent Forum Term 2 Meeting Minutes.
18th November 2021. Held virtually by Google Meetings.

Present Joanna Bruce, Emma McKimmie, Lisa Coutts, Lynne Adu, Kim Dodd, Cllr Marion Ewenson, Cllr Lesley Berry, Lisa Coutts, Cheryl Pow, Cath Leibnitz, David Shanks

Welcome & Apologies

JB welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies - Dawn, Alisa, Janet, Lindsay Glennie, Lyndsey McGunnigle, Cllr Judy Whyte

Approval of previous minutes

Cath Leibnitz

Cllr Updates

Lesley Berry – Burn lane crossing, expected to be finished in this financial year.

Port Elphinstone roundabout improvements – should be finished by Easter. Change/upgrade at A96/Port Elphinstone.

Town Hall upgrade – live planning application to come before Garioch Area committee. No further comment at this time.

COVID – Hybrid council meetings held - home & office joined.

Stonehaven & Fraserburgh have new primary schools approved

Xmas events in Inverurie –

28th Nov fireworks

4th Dec - Big sing town hall

11th Dec – Santa’s grotto and reindeer parade

12th Dec – Santa Fun Run

Cllr Ewenson – Work to tidy up roundabouts to be done locally.

Ury Riverside park, more tree planting for Queen’s green canopy project and Queen’s jubilee

Always looking for volunteers if any of the community would like to help.

Action - DS to add to newsletter

Head Teacher Report

The recent visit to Uryside School by Education Scotland, to follow up on the previous inspection was very successful. A letter with further information should be issued to all families within the next few weeks.

Safety in the car park and around the school was a significant matter recognised by Education Scotland and various points discussed. The school community of Uryside, need to work hard to ensure that we are driving carefully and considering the safety of pedestrians.

Action - JB to reshare ‘Park Smart’ pack with KD for review.

There was a spike in COVID cases before the October break, upper stages were worst affected but cases in lower stages also. Community transmission would have had an impact on numbers, but this has now slowed down and total of 6 cases since return to school.

Attendance rate has stayed above 96%

Children worked with Rotary club planting trees. They had been nurtured for almost a year and the Rotary club helped with the planting of the trees at Uryside. This is part of the windbreak solution for the playground/field and is part of Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Lord Lt will visit Uryside 2nd week in January to officially open the outdoor classroom, this will also feature some special guests.

Online craft selling will be available in December for parents to buy their children's crafts, hamper raffle, Santa Run, Christmas jumper day, virtual panto, year group parties planned, whole school virtual party on last day of term are all planned this term.

KD in talks with Anne Overton re school lets.

Expressions App – possible use

JB mentioned that some other schools are using the Expressions app which allows the parent to receive and store all correspondence from school.

KD advised that some schools are 'early adopters' and that for those using, the rollout will be gradual.

Ideally the app would be optional for parents so that they can choose to receive correspondence that way, but school would still be required to distribute by E-mail also. Due to current systems in place, to have e-mail and app would not be a beneficial addition.

Weekly Preview Learning

JB noted that while Preview learning is a positive part of home learning, the White Rose videos for maths aren't particularly well received, personally. Perhaps if these were done by the teacher, it would be more relatable for children. Could just be a personal preference.

KD advised that White Rose was used during lockdown so that parents could see how children were being taught, to help with home learning. This has continued as a helpful addition to weekly home learning and has meant that we can still have the input particularly at times of high staff absence when teacher led videos would not have been possible.

DS advised that perhaps a survey to get the wider parent body feedback would be an option.

KD advised that there will be a change and step up in preview learning content. This will be rolled out from January so families can expect some changes, but it should be noted that these will be gradual.

Fundraising

Emma will contact Ms Philip re enterprise and fundraising – Xmas hampers etc.

Emma noted that numbers are dwindling for fundraising helpers committee. It would be great to have some additional members so that we when are permitted to hold events, we have people in place who are able to help.

Action - JB and EM to put together wording to be shared in newsletter.

Treasurer Report

No real change in finances. £2600.00 new term.

School football goals bought by PF. £219.00

We will pay for Santa Run medals also, any donations for this will contribute to the cost but PF happy to cover.

CONNECT have sent out a survey to see what our previous year's funding has covered. Cath has completed the survey, and this will allow us to receive the funding for the coming year.

JB to send copy of Constitution to Connect also in regard to this.

KD asked if PF will contribute to the Xmas parties – crackers etc. Cath confirmed that PF will cover this.

Still no further forward with closing out Market Place Parent Council bank account. JD and CL will review old e-mails to check if balance is known and will move onwards with having this issued closed out.

JB asked if we can have a photo of goals for sharing with families.

Action – KD will ask Ms Stewart to send on.

AOCB

Hoodies – will this be organised for P7? DS advised that school ties have been organised and will be distributed soon.

Hoodies should be organised and paid for by families, however school will be more than happy to place the order or can pass the company details onto the parent organiser if this is preferred.

After school club – it was briefly mentioned at a previous meeting that Uryside School may benefit from an After School Club.

Approx 40 children go to different clubs within Inverurie each day.

It is understood that this would be a much welcomed addition to Uryside school and hopefully something that the PF can continue to investigate.

JB asked if there will be a P6 residential trip next year.

KD advised that this has been planned, further details to come very soon.

Hopefully all classes will be able to do some trips, although these are likely to be local to begin with. Must take into account the COVID restrictions and bringing parent helpers in etc.

Thank you from Kim Dodd to David Shanks, Lindsey McGunnigle and Cheryl Pow for all of their hard work in preparing for the visit from Education Scotland.

Additionally, all teachers, PSAs, staff and parents and parents are recognised for their contributions and hard work also.

Date of next meeting

24th February 2022