

Present	Hilary Gorrie, Gillian Meek, Sue Widdicombe, Laura Thomson, Roger Walpole, Jim Campbell, Emma Clater, Sam Murrell, Ana Morais, Amrita Shaan, Mike Shaan, Keith McDowell, Ellie Bird
Apologies	Tanya Bolton, George Gordon, Cammy Gill.
Date	Wednesday 23 January 2019
Chair	Sue
Minutes	Gillian

1) Previous minutes / actions

These were accepted.

2) Homework

The school has a policy on homework which is out of date and needs to be revised. Homework is now commonly called 'home learning'.

It's difficult to apply a policy uniformly because not all families view it in the same way:

- Some like the idea and encourage it
- Some feel their children work hard at school and should relax at home
- Some refuse to do it

There are no school guidelines on how much to expect from each class. Home learning is covered in the termly newsletter for each class. School staff will arrange for these to go on the school website in future.

We discussed that not all parents have seen the learning wall for their class – they should speak to the class teacher to check if one exists and ask for another copy.

Some parents felt that we don't give as much homework as other schools ie, not sending a book or flashcards home. Hilary explained that we used to do this but found that, as well as losing a lot of books, not all children completed the homework tasks at the same pace which made it disruptive when teachers checked back on progress in class. School staff also found that this approach worked for some children but not others. We now follow the Read, Write, Inc scheme with all activities being done in class. We've found that attainment levels are rising as a result. Any member of the teaching staff would be happy to advise on home learning to support this – parents should just ask for an appointment.

Some parents are confused by the blue homework folder and whether this should be returned to school every day. Again, teachers can advise on this.

We noted that Sumdog is a good activity– kids will have a school account which they can also access at home.

Some parents asked about tools to help children write in cursive – as a group we couldn't identify anything available locally but there are resources available on the web. The national stats show that cursive is the best approach as it avoids the dip in P4 when joined up writing starts.

We noted that, last year, the inspectors praised the presentation of work throughout the school.

Parents would like clearer information on what to do with home learning, including whether the blue folder should go into school every day or not. They like the idea of projects that are research based with a fixed timeline for completion, say over 2 weeks. P2/3 just did this successfully with their project on Scotland.

The senior team confirmed that they are happy to help with communication between parents and teaching staff and provide liaison and support. They will add the Parent Council booklets to the school website.

3) Treasurer's Report: current balances:

PC: £3,612.16
PTA: £6,044.03

4) School update

Class Organisation

- ! Still only 28 P1 children enrolled for next year.

School review

- ! The QI team recently did a spot test with pupils throughout the school. The informal feedback has been very positive.

School budget

- ! We have a projected underspend of £45 for 2018/2019 in the school budget.

New school building

- ! The deadline for feedback on the proposal is 8 February.
- ! A meeting is planned for 26/2 to discuss the interior.
- ! There are sessions planned to discuss with staff on the May in-service day.
- ! Heather Yang who is heavily involved in the community garden in Newhaven, is keen to be involved in the landscaping of the new school grounds
- ! Work is starting on safe routes to school.

Meet the teacher

- ! This is very poorly attended in the upper school – 1 parent out of 24 in P6/7 in August 2018.
- ! We discussed that we may want to canvass opinion at the next parents' evening.
- ! We also discussed setting and communicating the date before the summer holidays so that parents have more notice.

5) Councillors update

The end of February is budget time. Education will be affected. Ellie will pass out the link to the consultation – here it is: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/changephase2/>

A decision on Trams to Newhaven should be available in March. .

We discussed whether a warning sign could be available to alert drivers on the school crossing on Lindsay Road.

5) AOB

Following the incident where a pupil was approached by a stranger in Newhaven Main Street, Laura confirmed that all staff have been reminded of the correct procedure in such a circumstance.

Next meeting date: Tuesday 19 March 2019 (Topic: Pupil Equity Funding)

Time: 7pm

Venue - PC Room