



Troqueer Parents and Friends Council



TPFC EXTRODINARY MEETING WEDNESDAY 10 February 2021

Via Microsoft Teams 6.00pm

Minute

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Kirsteen Macintyre, Martin Armstrong, Nancy Torbet, Gillian Walker, Lynn Wilson, Lisa Muirhead (chair), Itziar Goireina, Lisa Crosbie, Lyn Gordon, Elspeth Scade, Jenny Law, Nikki Cameron, Liliana Savin, Nicola Jardine, Alastair Bloxham, Joanne Russell

Apologies: no apologies

2. Update on planned return to school for nursery and P1-3 children.

Martin advised that he was not in a position to finalise the arrangements yet for the return to school. The Scottish Government will confirm the return date on the 16th of February and Martin will be in a position to finalise the arrangements after that date. However, at this stage, he can share his plans so far and some of the logistical difficulties involved.

Martin advised that there are 9 known instances across D & G of people who have come to school who have subsequently tested positive for Covid. When close contacts from school of these persons have been tested, they have been negative. This is

encouraging as it shows that safety measures within school have been working.

Online learning

In relation to online learning, the school have been in touch with all families, however, engagement in home learning has not been quite 100%.

Logistical issues

From the 22nd February, the school will be running the childcare Hub for key workers and vulnerable children, online classes for P4-7 and in school classes for nursery and P1-P3. The Hub will decrease in numbers with some of the children coming back to school, but there have also been additional children with the children of teachers who are returning, requiring a place. The Hub requires to be staffed on a 1 Adult to 8 children basis. Previously, the Hub was staffed by nursery staff, learning support staff and some available teachers. The nursery staff will be required to teach in nursery and are no longer available for the Hub. Similarly, some of the learning support time and that of the other available teachers such as Mrs Riddick and Mrs Law, will again be required in class to teach. This means that it is difficult to staff the Hub. Martin advised that he had approached Dumfries Academy and they may assist with some of their staff.

In relation to retrning staff, he has one member of staff who is shielding who has been advised not to return to work, even though they have been vaccinated. Martin also has to factor in providing staff with their RICCT allowance (which equates to 30 minutes per day of non-class contact time)

P3

In relation to P3 – Mrs Cannon has a few P3s in her P3/4 class. It has been agreed that Mr Earl and Mrs Cannon will share the teaching of the P3s (34 in total) between them. They have more than one classroom available and the whole P3 group will be taught by both of them. For part of the day a group may have Mr Earl and for part, Mrs Cannon.

Staggered starts

To avoid as much community transfer as possible, it is planned that the Hub and P2 will start and finish at 9am /3pm. P1 and P3 will start and finish at 8.45am/ 2.45pm.

Safety matters

Parents will be asked that only one adult collects the child(ren). Parents will be asked not to approach the class teachers at the start or end of the day to discuss issues/pass on messages.

Messages are to be relayed via the school office or via Martin or Nancy who will usually be in the playground. This is part of the risk assessment to keep teaching staff safe.

Martin confirmed consideration is being given to allowing children access to the school at time of arrival to save parents waiting till the bell rings (similar to wet days).

Covid Testing

School staff will require to undergo Covid testing x2 per week. These will be the lateral flow tests. If they return a positive test, it means that a full Covid test requires to be taken. Parents should be aware that if a staff member tests positive and Martin is not able to get a supply teacher at short notice, certain classes may have to close on certain days at short notice.

There may be some disruption to online learning if it assists keeping classes open within school – for example there may be reduced or delayed feedback on particular days.

Thanks from parents

Many parents present expressed thanks to Martin for detailing the logistical difficulties he and his staff faced and for all the hard work of Martin and his team during the last few weeks of home schooling.

3. Fund raising tea towel group

Nicola Jardine confirmed that the TPFC had set up a Paypal account to help us to sell the tea towels. We will soon be in a position to market the tea towels (the design having been finalised). Once the first batch of orders are received, the tea towels will be delivered to school for a period of quarantine similar to the raffle prizes. Those in school can take their orders home once safe to do so. For those home schooling, Martin advised that he could set up an outdoor collection point which he can man if required. However, it was hoped that it

would not be many more weeks before p4-7 were also back at school.

Lisa suggested that if any particular classes required access to TPFC funds to assist with small class projects, they could ask the TPFC. There was general agreement to this proposal. Martin advised that he would let his staff know that this option was available.

Next meeting

Noting that the next meeting is on the 17th March 2021 at 6pm via Teams

end

