

Balmuildy Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

Tuesday 25th April 2023

Apologies: Melodie Crumlin, Susan Mason

Present: Marianne MacLeod, Susan Anderson, Stephanie Fowler, Atif Rashid, Heather Glass, Hazel Fisher, Lorna Kenney, Carol Jarman, Kelly O'Neill.

Head Teacher Update

Reading Strategy

-LK invited Carol Jarman to the PC meeting to discuss Balmuildy's Reading Strategy. The school are working on introducing a more structured, progressive pathway. Money has recently been spent on refreshing texts for all stages. Pupils are currently taught decoding and comprehension strategies through a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts from early level through to second level. Balmuildy already has a strong literacy level, but the new reading strategy aims to add value as well as work towards closing the attainment gap.

Balmuildy currently has a staff working group working on the development of the reading strategy. The staff currently sitting on this group are C Jarman, A Anderson, C McAteer and N Biggart.

Various publishers can now be used as part of reading progression. The North Lanarkshire resources were due to be delivered in Aug 22 but were delayed until Jan 23. C Jarman talked the PC through the new reading strategy.

- Reading skill development for Curriculum for Excellence levels linked to each coloured band.
- P1, P4 and P7 teachers report on reading levels and feel more supported to do this.
- More support for class teachers in supporting decoding, fluency and critical reading skills.
- Pull Curriculum for Excellence experiences & outcomes, benchmarks for reading & North Lanarkshire resources into a working format for class teachers.
- Class teachers to create reading planner as part of forward planning.
- Cluster working with Bishopbriggs Academy to shape P7 programme.
- Supporting ALL pupils – how do we support broad range of learners and children with specific literacy difficulties.
- Purchase of Barrington Stoke novels to support reluctant readers.
- Use of rapid phonics in early stages – fully decodable phonics scheme to support learners.

Next Steps

- Work on strategy for early, first and second level.
- Reading schools accreditation – focus on reading for pleasure.
- Pupil voice.
- Consultation for all parents/carers.

.Communication Policy

LK issued communication policy following our last PC meeting to request feedback.

- Discussion on use of social media, in particular, Twitter. Agreement that Twitter would be used for public announcements, community engagement, general Balmuilty news and sharing of pupil wider achievement.
- Seesaw is used within the school to share learning and communicated informally. Pieces of work and school experiences would be shared throughout the year.
- Text – generally used for more urgent information.

Constitution

HF updated PC guidelines. Discussion on possible edits and HF to edit before next meeting in May. Guidelines will then be placed on the school website.

SHRE

SA asked a question around how the SHRE lessons are delivered and materials selected.

- Current resources are available on the school website.
- Parents/carers notified before lessons are delivered. (usually March)
- Lessons delivered by class teachers who know young people well.
- Lessons are selected by school staff who use their professional judgement to selected lessons that are relevant and appropriate.
- School staff always happy to answer any questions.

AOCB

AR informed the PC that due to work commitments he will not be able to commit to attending meetings going forward. The PC thanked AR for his input and enthusiasm.

The PC discussed the new calm kits that staff have created to be used in Balmuilty. These will provide space and resources for young people to destress within the classroom environment.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 30th May
6.30pm Turnbull High School

