

## **St Ninians Primary School Family Forum 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Present:** Cheryl Hanlon, Stuart Auld, Philippa Cochrane, Lorna, Margaret, Julie Myles, Di Airey, Olivia Bell, Lorna Graeme, Claire Hunter, Mrs Rushton, Mrs Ingram, Mrs Boyle

**Apologies:** Claire Campbell, Paul Maxfield, Alex Galletly, Claire Griffiths, Emma Anderson, Katie Ketrick

### **Head Teacher Update**

Care Inspectorate carried out an unannounced inspection of the Nursery at the start of the new term and received a Graded 5/ 'Very Good' rating.

Staffing news; Mrs Wright new P7N teacher, replacing Mrs Nowbaveh who is starting maternity leave. Congratulations to Mrs McKail who recently had a baby girl.

The school website has a new section with local event information. Information about local clubs and events will be added here. Additions will also be flagged on weekly noticeboard.

Pupil leadership and pupil voice in learning and learning environments. Mrs Boyle will lead on a People Voice initiative. She has Childrens Parliament experience at previous school and will run focus groups and surveys in Term 2 to get input from learners.

School Fund from sponsored events or commissions goes towards small spends throughout the year e.g. Christmas parties. A sponsored Santa Dash is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> December around grounds/Beechwood Park for all staff and pupils. This will event will be announced to pupils on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Christmas music and active Stirling supporting. Families will be welcome to attend.

### **Connect Update (inter primary school forum, Stirlingshire)**

No update as meeting rescheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. Paul Maxfield attending.

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

A lack of awareness of the School mobile phone policy was raised. Mrs Rushton explained that if a mobile phone is brought to school, it should be given to teacher at the start of the day and will be locked in the teacher's drawer or given to the office.

Mrs Rushton proposed a group (parents, staff and pupils) review of policy in Term 2 given **more** younger learners are bringing mobiles to school than in the past.

### **Vaping Policy**

The issue of vaping was raised. An older pupil had been seen vaping in the playground and in the school toilets. A committee member expressed concern over the toilets not being seen to be a safe

space for others. Another member explained the vapes are now more sophisticated and being aimed at children and gave the example of some being styled like a highlighter pen.

Mrs Rushton explained there has been no need to date for a school vaping or smoking policy. Stirling Council policy is no vaping/smoking in council grounds. Mrs Rushton confirmed one isolated incident with vaping in school recently. The vape was confiscated and the family contacted. Toilets can flare up as an issue and the upstairs toilets have now added in to checks by SLAs.

NHS Time For Us organisation, typically having run programmes for Secondary level, are piloting a vaping education programme in Forth Valley for P6 and P7s. This covers addiction, impacts on health, fact based. This has been shared with P6 and P7 teachers who are discussing if this is appropriate for our learners.

It was agreed that trying to link in with other schools, perhaps Glasgow schools, in terms of policies or insights is a good idea. Mrs Rushton and Claire Hunter to lead on this.

### **Defibrillator Replacement**

Mrs Saunders has made contact with Trossachs Search and Rescue but is awaiting a response. Potential fundraising may be required to replace the defibrillator. Check in with Claire regarding previous funding. Mrs Rushton also to check if Defibrillator has been added to the school's insurance.

### **Exclusions/behaviour concerns**

Concerns from some parents were shared by Julie Myles, especially in P1 and 2, regarding high number and severity of behavioural flare ups being heard of in Term 1 and are seeking more information on how these are being managed and explained to the rest of the class.

Mrs Rushton explained that transition periods, such as start of the school year, are known as periods to be managed. The school is fully inclusive and has of children with special needs. The aim is to make every environment to be as safe as possible for all learners. In the event of a child displaying dysregulated behaviours in a classroom setting, other learners may be moved to a different learning space while that child is supported to a state of calm.

Mrs Rushton acknowledged the debrief with the class is important. Many class teachers do this very well. The school team are due to do some work with the Educational Psychologist this session, to ensure a consistent approach to debrief by all staff.

The Five Point scheme has been re-introduced for learners to explain feelings. Parents of younger years may need this explained to them.

Mrs Rushton explained that monthly evening engagement sessions are being planned for 2024 and information on the Five Point scheme and other actions could be shared at the Inclusivity and Diversity session.

### **School trip opportunities**

Cost of transport is the limiting factor. Local and further away trips being costed. Example given of Cowie Primary getting bus passes to Stirlingshire attractions. Possibility but had been looked at previously and concluded that SNPS would try to walk to as many local attractions as possible, classes sizes also a consideration.

### **Promoting membership ideas**

Mrs Rushton suggested a stand at the Learner Progress sessions in November. Volunteers to man the events will be agreed via the Family Forum whatsapp group.

### **AOB**

**Drainage** – better than last year, was a maintenance schedule agreed between the Council and Robertsons and is it being adhered to? If so, is it sufficient if parents are still raising concerns?

**Breakfast Club for childcare** – recollection is that Staffing was the limitation at the last review pre Covid. Cheryl/parents to direct queries to OSC.

**Poly tunnel** – completion certificate granted!

**Playing field** – work on going

**Derelict building and painting over graffiti** – Mrs Rushton seeking volunteers and paint. Potential link in with local church group who carried out some painting work in the school grounds last term

**SHS carpark signage** – Stirling Council to do site visit to scope work. Mrs Rushton following up.

**Travel Plan – how to feed responses through to Stirling Council?** Julie Myles may act as link to the Torbrex Community Council and investigate the potential link to the Local Development Plan review which is starting early 2024. Philippa Cochrane suggested Pupils Voice initiative as a route to capture feedback from the children.

**Family Forum/PTA facebook pages** – combining pages being considered.

*Next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024*