

**BROUGHTON PRIMARY**



**PARENT COUNCIL**

Challenge Achieve Nurture

**For your Information:**

**Chair:** Maryanne Jenkins

**Vice Chair:** Lesley Mason

**Treasurer:** Helen Wood

**Secretary:** Lynne Short

**To contact us:** [BroughtonParents@outlook.com](mailto:BroughtonParents@outlook.com)

**Parent Council Remote Meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May @ 6pm**

**Present:** Maryanne Jenkins, Helen Wood, Lesley Mason, Lynne Short, Jenni Curson (Acting Head Teacher), Maureen Swinburne (Principal Teacher), Suzie Babb, Phoebe McCosh, Malcolm Bruce, Susan Brown

**Apologies:** Vicky Grant, Jenny Hutchison

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome**

Maryanne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. HT Update (Jenni / Maureen)**

- Jenni thanked everyone for the warm welcome to Broughton Primary. She gave an update on Carn who is back at home & recovering well after major surgery. She is on track for a return to school in August. Maureen thanked Parent Council for the flowers sent to Carn on behalf of all Broughton Primary families. The children have also made and signed a card to deliver to her.
  - **Covid update:** Jenni informed us that the Scottish Government has not relaxed rules around Bubbles in school. This is due to new variants of the virus. Jenni and Maureen would like to use Teams as a vehicle for the children to work on group projects in order to bring together classes and year groups that are split.
  - **Outdoor learning:** Maureen thanked Parent Council for its support in setting up the poly tunnel. Fergus Mason was thanked for his hard work also. All classes are now using the outdoor classroom as an integral part of their school day.
  - **Growing project:** each class has now planted its areas within the poly tunnel and around the school. There has been great enthusiasm and this project was well needed by both children and staff. Broughton in Bloom have offered to water the plants over the summer holiday. Extra seeds are being brought on in class and the intention is to sell these to the local community when they are ready. Pupil Parliament is involved in this, they would like to buy some outdoor storage for tools etc. Proceeds from plant sales will be used for this. There is a request for Parent Council funds to make up the full amount needed for this storage. The outdoor group will write to Parent Council to formally request this.
- Maryanne felt that local plant sales would be a good money raiser and would be happy to help with selling plants to people in the village. Lesley suggested the possibility of an honesty table outside the shop or an honesty box behind the tearoom.
- Maureen told us that the children have sent a thank you letter to Mary Dunlop for the containers. They will also write a thank you letter to Davy Reive for the topsoil. Caroline the school cook is on board with the project and has asked for herbs to be grown which could be used in the kitchen.

**Maryanne thanked the parents who helped fill beds and tubs.**

**There is some topsoil remaining which parents have asked about – once the next Pupil Council meeting has been held Mrs Swinburne will let us know if this is available for parents to help themselves.**

- **Transition:** Biggar HS is hoping that a physical transition on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> June will be possible (dates unconfirmed). Peebles HS is offering transition via Teams. It looks to be very positive with all departments represented and planning to teach a virtual lesson in each department.
- **Sports Day:** the date for Sports Day has been pushed back to 22<sup>nd</sup> June in the hope of a relaxation of Covid rules. Currently a potted event in class bubbles is planned.  
No parents will currently be allowed to attend. If there are any changes to the Scottish government guidelines we will respond.  
Maryanne said that if sports day goes ahead Parent Council would like to organise an ice cream van or an alternative treat for the children.
- **Tennis:** thank you to Broughton Tennis Club for making the tennis courts available to school on Tuesdays during PE lessons.
- **P7 end of term activity days:** these are planned to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June and will involve canoeing and archery with Biggar Adventure and outdoor activities with Michelle Fraser. Thank you to Parent Council for funding transport.
- **Staff Gifts:** again staff would kindly request that parents to not send staff gifts at the end of the year. Maryanne pointed out that at Christmas, Parent Council organised wine to be sent to all staff on behalf of the parents and we will plan to do the same at the end of the year.
- **Update on Mrs Colquhoun:** Maryanne requested an update on the staffing situation for P456. Jenni explained that Lesley Colquhoun is hoping for a phased return to school shortly. Information will be sent out in due course. It is hoped that Lesley will be in school full time by the summer holiday..

### 3. Parent Council Update (Maryanne)

- **Summer Social:** at a committee meeting last week, the possibility of a social and fundraising event was discussed. This would need to be comply with Covid restrictions. We would like to plan a 'Summer Social' event. We would ask parents to host a small social gathering of their choice – ideas could be an Afternoon Tea, Bangers and Beer, Pizza and Wine, Picnic in the Park etc. Parents could invite friends, neighbours or family who would give a donation, raising money for BPS whilst safely socialising. The weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June is the suggested date. **Please email us with any ideas or questions about this. A poster with details will be distributed via GroupCall/WhatsApp.**

Lesley suggested that a simple raffle (i.e. a hamper of goodies) could take place over the weekend. **We are looking for a volunteer to organise the raffle prize – please email us if you can help.**

- **Friday Sports Club:** Nicola is keen to start this as soon as possible however SBC's Covid restrictions mean that this is currently not possible.
- **Noticeboard:** this has been ordered and will arrive next week. We have contacted the joiner for fitting it at the school gates.
- **WhatsApp Groups / Twitter:** We have had positive parental feedback about the WhatsApp groups. Similarly positive feedback has been received about the school's Twitter page however we have a request for input from all classes if possible.

### 4. Treasurer's Report (Helen)

- There has been little movement since we last met. The following items have been paid for:

PVSL Licence (annual)  
Noticeboard (thanks to Tweedsmuir CC)  
Books suitable for older readers  
Gardening Equipment

- Pending:

Transport for P7 Activity Days

- The year-end accounts for 2019 - 2020 have been approved and signed off.

#### 5. School Meals (Lesley)

- Lesley has been looking into some concerns over school meals. Currently at Broughton Primary the uptake in P123 is almost 100% however from P-4 this drops to approximately 30%. Lesley has found that this is a much lower uptake than most of the schools in the Scottish Borders.  
Lesley also has concerns about quality of ingredients and suppliers. She spoke to SBC about this and was informed that food is procured centrally. Meat is Quality Scotland or Red Tractor approved and vegetables are sourced locally if possible.  
Susan asked if the uptake changes depending on the season. Her concern is whether meals are substantial enough for the children. She also wonders if suppliers have changed recently.  
Lesley does feel that portion size is one issue.  
Helen pointed out that she likes to see what her child is actually eating and asked if it would be possible to find out from the canteen staff how much food is being left each day.

**We would like parents to email us / contact us on WhatsApp with your thoughts on school meals. If you aren't choosing school meals, can you please let us know why? We can then take back evidence to Scottish Borders Council.**

#### 6. AOB

- Katy Miller (local childminder) passed on feedback from some parents regarding the increasing need for an After School Club in Broughton. Maryanne did a lot of research and background work for this a couple of years ago; at that point, Newlands was showing an interest in setting this up for BPS families. As the pandemic hit, this went no further. Ideally a parent or group of parents with children in ELC or in P1/2 would be best placed to take this forward. **If an After School club is of interest to you, you may be in a position to further research and communicate with Newlands to move this forward. Please contact us via email or WhatsApp if you can help.**
- Maryanne thanked everyone for coming and thanked the committee for all their hard work, ideas and support.

**The minutes from our last meeting were approved by Helen and Lesley. Meeting ended at 6.57pm.**

**Next meeting will be mid June – date TBC.**