

North West Sutherland Schools Parent Council

24.06.2020

5pm Google Teams

In attendance – Stefanie Breckenridge, Katy Lee (Staff), Sophie Beveridge, Jacqui Ann Munro, Christine MacKenzie (Sec), Graeme Smart (Head Teacher) Aileen MacDonald (Staff / Parent), Carol Anne Forsyth, Leanne McKee.

Apologies – Linda Tebay, Krysha Davies, Iona Shaw, Maureen Foley.

Minutes of last meeting – Not addressed as this was an additional meeting mainly to discuss the return to school in light of Covid 19 and Staffing.

Matters arising – N/A

Head Teacher's Report – N/A

Matters arising from Head Teacher's report – N/A

Staffing – KLB Primary will keep Abby Forrest and Heather Davidson for the next year at least.

Scourie Primary – Krysha Davies will be going on maternity leave but will be covered by Aileen MacDonald and Marianne Hutchison.

High School – Jorge Garcia will start in August as a probationer Spanish teacher along with doing work for the Virtual Academy. As he is coming from Spain he will arrive in July and complete a 14 day isolation before coming into the school.

Heidi Majanen, Home Economics, History and Modern Studies is leaving at the end of term.

Rowan Watkins will continue to cover social studies and has postponed her career break.

Cle Jarvis, Support for Learning was in school 3 days per week but due to personal circumstances will leave at the end of term.

Gail Ross also has personal circumstances that may affect her ability to work but will keep the school informed of any changes.

Katy Macfarlane will become a 5-day learning support teacher and her current post in Durness primary has been advertised. Signs are promising that the post will be filled but if there are issues Linda Gill has offered to cover until October.

Return to School in August – it is difficult to give a definitive answer to what will be happening as the goalposts are constantly moving. As of today, the expectation is that schools will return on 11.8.20 for staff and pupils on 12.8.20. If the 2-metre distancing is still in place all pupils can still be fitted in to classrooms as the largest class size is 10 pupils. Risk assessments are underway for all aspects of the return. Extra hygiene measures will be in place, soap and hand towels in the toilets, hand sanitiser available, desks to be sprayed and wiped between classes.

Masks would not be routinely worn in school as that is not considered good practice but may have to be worn on the buses. More information will be required regarding transport as with 2 metre distancing only 5 people would fill a 16-seater minibus. If as is likely there will be no 2-metre distance limit in school, then that may also apply on the bus. Parents were contacted to ask if they would be able to bring their kids to school if necessary.

The KLB Wednesday for all pupils will move to Thursday next year. For the first couple of weeks it will be a shorter visit rather than a full day for the sake of new P1's who have and no induction days to prepare them. From 3.9.20 it is hoped that schools can get together for the full day. Scourie had Mrs Poole for Art on Thursday but now they will still have Art but in the High School Art Room along with pupils from the other schools.

School times will not change.

There will still be a need for separate indoor and outdoor shoes.

Lunch and snack times should be able to run as normal if social distancing no longer applies within the school. Catering staff have been on site to assess how best to manage the canteen. Online for both primary and secondary meals is encouraged but cash will still be accepted. Cash will sit for at least 72 hours before being handled.

Classrooms will look very different. Resources will be stored away, surfaces must be wipeable. Each pupil will have a box under their desk with all they will need. Now the classrooms have been set up with the desks 2-metres apart, but this may change. Ahead of time a video will be prepared to let pupils see what their classroom will be like as it is such a big change. They have been stripped back both to allow for deep cleaning and to limit resources left out. Soft furnishings, dressing up clothes etc have been removed. It is a good time to think about what is used and what is essentially clutter. Everyone should be encouraged to look at the changes positively as a fresh start.

The guiding principles for all schools are
Prevent the virus coming in
Prevent transmission within the school
Prevent transmission out of the school.

This will be achieved by hand washing on entry, sanitiser during the day and washing on the way out. Limit what is sent home, limit what comes in from home. Adults keep out of school and children from other families. Staff can move between schools but not on the same day. Both children and staff should wear clean clothes every day. It is understood that this will put pressure on the availability of uniform. Purple sweatshirts should be worn on Thursdays.

Outdoor leaning will be actively encouraged as there is less danger from the virus outside. Scourie lodge have offered exclusive use of an outdoor toilet, but this will have to be risk assessed. Possible that the facility will no longer be available if tourism opens up.

Treasurer's Report

KLB HS/Scourie PS PC account 2,478.37

KLB PS PC account - no information

Durness PS PC account - no information

Correspondence - None

AOB – Exams – This year there were no exams. Estimated grades were submitted to SQA for all courses from National 2 to Advanced Higher. Results will come out on 4.8.20 either by post or on-line. There is an appeals system in place, but appeals are only allowed if the result is lower than the estimate. Final details of the appeals procedure will not be available until August. This year appeals will be free. Appeals must be evidence based which may cause problems as the school submitted grades based on “inferred attainment”. As courses were not completed at the time there is a lack of concrete evidence to back up appeals.

Pupils should be discouraged from taking items from home to school, such as toys, pencil cases etc. All stationery will be provided.

Please check your houses and return any textbooks or library books that may be lurking forgotten in corners. Books will be quarantined for 2 – 3 days on return before being re-issued.

It is hoped the school library can be opened.

Would future meetings be better held online or a mixture of online and face to face? Parents will be consulted as to their preference.

Date of next meeting - Date and format to be finalised nearer the time but during September.

Meeting closed 18:00pm