

North West Sutherland Schools Parent Council

16.9.20 – 7.00pm Google Meet

In attendance – As AGM

Apologies – As AGM

Minutes of last meeting – Approved S Breckenridge, Seconded J A Munro

Matters Arising – library books etc can still be returned to school, they will be quarantined for three days before going back into circulation. The same will happen to any surplus school jumpers.

Small jumpers will be welcome for nursery age pupils.

Head Teacher's Report – attached.

Matters Arising from Head Teacher's Report –

The schools have three priorities re Covid

1 prevent it coming into the Schools

2 Prevent it spreading within the Schools

3 prevent it entering the community via the Schools

Because of the above parents etc are not to come into school unless there are exceptional circumstances. Phone or email contact is always available. Pupils do not have to social distance however staff should distance from each other and pupils and wear a mask where necessary.

If a pupil exhibits symptoms they will be isolated within the school and parents will be contacted to take them home and arrange a test. If a member of staff has symptoms they will go home and arrange a test. If the test is negative that person can come back to school if positive, they are then under the advice of NHS Test and Protect and off for at least 14 days.

So far pupils have impressed staff with their attitude and attendance at this difficult time.

Primary School Issues

Durness – There is no hot meal on a Wednesday – this is a hangover from the pupils all going to KLB on a Wednesday. It was asked if the cold meal day could be moved to a Friday as that was a short day. This didn't work for the dinner lady's other commitments. There will have to be further changes if the altogether day moves to a Thursday. Discussions will be held with the catering managers to find the best solution.

Kinlochbervie – It was asked if all year groups could start and finish at the same time. This is difficult because P1 – 3 have fewer statutory hours than P4 – 7 The management team will discuss the issue to see if anything can be done and get back to parents.

Scourie – Nothing Raised

Nurseries – KLB and Durness have a special variation that allows them to take 2 year olds. Scourie is different as they have an early years class.

The loft space at KLB Pre School Centre was cleared of accumulated toys etc. Much of it was damaged by mice and the decision was made that it was in the most part unsalvageable.

Hot meals in KLB – An insulated box has been ordered to allow the food to remain at a safe temperature while being transported from the canteen to the Pre School Centre as soon as it arrives hot meals will be on offer.

High School Issues – Nothing Raised

Treasurer's Report – As AGM. Agreed to purchase of 6 new Chromebooks so that all pupils have one in case we go back into lockdown. Approximate cost of £900.

Fundraising – Due to the Covid restrictions it will be difficult to hold fundraising events this year. Durness and Scourie are both doing 50 : 50 raffles. Even Christmas Post may prove impossible this year as parent helpers not allowed in schools plus 3 day quarantine would be imposed on the cards. It will be discussed nearer the time as it is a good fundraising opportunity and it would be a shame to lose it.

Correspondence – Nothing Received

AOB – After School Club Charges - £11.66 per session up from £8 under CALA with no discount for siblings. The charges were challenged but there is no willingness in Highland Council to review them.

It was suggested that parents have some training on the workings of Google Classroom so that they can be of more help. Possible solution is to set up a parents Google Classroom. Techy oriented staff will be consulted to come up with a solution.

School photographer will be in schools shortly but siblings not in school / nursery will not be able to be brought in for photos.

Flu immunisation – the nurse will travel round the schools rather than pupils travel to the nurse.

Christmas Events – it will prove very difficult to have any sort of Christmas Show, Fair or even party this year. Staff will get their heads together as to the best way to make Christmas special for all the different age groups. Technology will be used to try and bring everyone together but it will inevitably be more challenging this year.

Date for next meeting – Wednesday 11th Nov 2020 4pm
Venue – Google Meet – unless restrictions are lifted

Meeting closed at 8.30pm