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Bathgate Early Years Centre

Parent Council Zoom meeting 14th May 2020

**Attendees:** Margaret Johns, Katy Leamy, Kirsten Patience, Audrey Templeton, Marion McCallum, Fiona Cameron,

Laura Marshall, Marion Courtney, Clare Dignall, Janice Earl-Summers, Dawn Roden, Claire Swan, Ros Milligan, Dorthe Davidson

**Apologies:** Harry Cartmill, Alison Currie, Leigh Maybury, Jennifer Strang, Joanna Morgan, Vikki Gallagher, Kay Taylor

**Update from Margaret Johns:**

**Transition:**

Nursery to Primary 1 – individual emails have been issued this week to all new Primary 1 parents with a welcome letter and video.

Primary 7 to S1 – it’s important for the school that our Primary 7’s get a sense of closure from Primary School before they leave and go to High School. They will miss out on their residential trip, prom and final church service.

The great news is that the school is organising a year book and a leavers hoodie for the children – year book goes to print on 15th May. Parents can order leavers hoodies online from week commencing 18th May – more information to follow. Oscars ceremony will still go ahead online.

For all other year groups moving up – new class teachers will be known at the beginning of June – online transition will take place, so the children can meet their new teachers. Staff changes at the school is possible, but not known yet.

**During school closure:**

Staff have been working from home. Staff have also volunteered to work at the school hubs at Simpsons Primary and St. Mary’s, and have helped out at Balbardie, which is a school meal collection point.

Hubs will be open during the summer holidays – mainly for childcare – different format as current set-up.

A question was asked regarding food waste at the school meal collection – MJ confirmed there is no food waste, as the children’s meals are pre-ordered in advance.

**Returning to school:**

MJ thinks it will be highly unlikely that the children will return to school in June.

Nothing has been decided yet what the school set up will look like when children return – smaller class sizes.

A lot of recovery planning is taking place just now.

**Home schooling:**

A big thank you goes out to all the teachers for preparing excellent school work for our children to work through at home. MJ was saying that all the teachers are missing the children.

P1 to P3 parents think it’s great to have teachers call to check how the children are getting on.

The home learning for P1 to P3 was discussed – some parents feel the learning needs to be re-energised to keep the children engaged. Perhaps more on-line assemblies, possible video messages from teachers? Our younger classes do not do their work on-line, they are missing contact with their teachers and friends.

Home learning for P4 to P7 is done on Microsoft Teams – this has proved very beneficial for the children to have better contact with their teachers and friends.

**Parent consultations:**

School reports will be emailed to parents from 22nd May. There will then be an opportunity to book an appointment with teachers to discuss the reports by phone.

**Playground:** Work on the playground has had to be stopped during lockdown – the company is based in England. We look forward to seeing them back when it’s safe to do so.

**School photos:** The school order was placed several months ago – the company has closed during lockdown, so no orders are getting processed just now. Parents will be advised when the photos are ready.

**PPE at school & nursery:** A question was asked regarding staff wearing PPE at school – PPE is not worn by staff at the school or at nursery as per council guidelines.

**Sports Day:** The school is considering organising a virtual sports day online for the children.

**Ribbons at school gate:** A thank you to everyone who have added ribbons to the front gates of the school – it cheers everyone up when you walk/drive past!!

**Food bank at Balbardie:** Margaret would like to create a pop-up food bank at Balbardie – if you would like to donate any non-perishable food, please drop off inside the school entrance – thank you.

It’s with great sadness we need to let you know that Mr David Pettigrew has suddenly passed away. David was a parent helper for many years both at Bathgate West Nursery and at Balbardie. He will be sorely missed by staff, parents and children. Our thoughts go out to Jennifer, Mya, Kyle and their family at this difficult time. Parent Council have sent flowers to Jennifer, and she would like to pass on her thanks.

**Our next Parent Council meeting will be on Zoom on Thursday 18th June 2020 – invite will be sent out nearer the time.**