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Little Paxton Primary School Governing Body
Minutes for the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Full Governing Body held on
Monday 22nd June 2020 at 6.30pm

The meeting was hosted on Zoom due to social distancing during the Coronavirus pandemic

Present:

Ellen Barrett	Co-opted Governor	Tim Gawler	Parent Governor
Anna-Sofia Conway	Parent Governor	David Jones	Co-opted Governor
Katie Delgado	Staff Governor	Nickie Moore	Head Teacher
Neil Donoghue	Co-opted Governor	Paul Warmington (Chair)	Parent Governor
Richard Fairbairn	Co-opted Governor	Austin Willett	Parent Governor

In attendance:

Rebekah Jenkins	Associate Member
Gemma Pearce	Clerk

Apologies

No apologies received from:

David Jones	Co-opted Governor
Victoria McAuley-Eccles	Co-opted Governor
Christopher Muwanguzi	Parent Governor

Welcome

The Chair introduced the purpose of the meeting - for the HT and Central Leadership Team (CLT) to present Governors with an update on school operation during the Coronavirus pandemic

HT Report

The school re-opened to children in EYFS, Year1 and Year 6 during the week beginning 1/6/2020 in line with Government Guidance. Key worker children have continued to attend.

The Risk Assessment around re-opening was shared with the LA and signed off prior to the half term week. This was then shared with Governors and Staff.

The INSET day on June 1st was spent ensuring all staff knew what the new processes and procedures were, setting up the classrooms to allow for social distancing and organising outside spaces etc for the different bubbles.

The plans put in place for social distancing on drop off including staggered starts and different gates have worked well from the start.

The garden is used by bubbles on a rota. Fields are divided in to sections for each bubble and teachers are encouraged to go outside as much as possible depending on the weather.

The staff room is limited to 8 so other areas set up for staff for breaks. Teachers are reminded not to go in to other classroom

There are 12 bubbles in school currently. Each bubble has a teacher and a TA assigned to it. TA's mostly sit outside the classroom but are another adult who can offer support to the teacher if needed, and they cover break time.

Due to the sizes of the various classrooms, following the guidance, school can admit 125 children. The biggest bubble size is 12. This is roughly 68% of all children in EYFS, Year1 and Year 6 and including 36 Key Worker children.

One teacher is currently shielding. If she were able to return to work before the end of term, they could take 137 children– 74% of the eligible children.

34/57 EYFS children have returned to school – roughly 60% of those eligible. There is now a waiting list.

17/46 Year 1 children have returned – 37%

36/52 Year 6 children have returned – 69%

Approximately 60-64% of eligible children are therefore attending school.

Parents have been very positive on the whole. The children have been superb and adapted to the new way of school and shown great resilience. It took a little longer for the EY children but they have done very well. The children follow the new rules and are working hard. This is reassuring for welcoming back more children in September.

School have communicated with parents about children not social distancing outside of school and dealt with any situations where this has been known to have occurred in order to protect other children and staff.

The CLT didn't want the year groups who are not eligible to continue without any interaction with their classes so the teachers now have 2 half an hour sessions a week (with those parents who have signed up to it and agreed to a stringent set of rules) with their normal classes on Zoom. These are PHSE based, not live learning, allowing the children to see and hear each other, check on how things are, share work etc. This is going really well and has been well received by pupils and parents,

Reports have all been written and being proof read – they will be sent out a little later than originally sent out as from 9th July government are changing requirement for attendance reporting due to Covid. Parents are being informed about the new date for reports.

School have to report to the LA if any child/member of staff shows any of the symptoms of COVID-19. They also ask those with any symptoms to have a test and report back to us, and are allowed back in to school after a negative test. The attendance policy will need updating in line with this for September.

School is now at full capacity but now have parents asking for a space – some are keyworkers who expect priority. LA guidance makes it clear that bubbles should not be burst to make new bubbles so they are supporting that school can only accommodate new children in newly formed bubbles where that is possible. This may change if social distancing reduces to 1m – they then may be able to add these children.

The LA have been very clear to go cautiously as the next couple of weeks are fairly critical due to a small spike in Huntingdon.

Safeguarding is still being closely monitored. Police make school aware if they are called to any domestic violence issues involving children. Child protection meetings continue on the phone and safeguarding continuing as far as possible.

Planning for September is starting with best case scenario that will be all children will be back to school in September.

Questions for HT and CLT

[Have any kids eligible been turned down to attend or is everyone who wants to come in, in?](#)

There is a waiting list of children who want a place but there currently isn't space for as of yet. CLT are in contact with these parents and carers weekly to update them.

[Are you now at capacity under the current Risk Assessment for all eligible years?](#)

Yes in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. There are some days where school can take extra children in the key worker bubbles but can not admit anyone else full time. Latest guidance from county is that we should not currently open any more bubbles to prevent a second spike

[We've now been reopened 3 weeks... at what stage did the school reach full capacity?](#)

This is the first week (from Monday) that they have not been able to admit new children into any of the bubbles.

[Have school had any details on catch up funding that has been announced by the government?](#) No, not yet. With regard to September the CLT will be looking at how staff assess where the children are on their return to school. They have also been working on our support for September in regard to TAs and planning this across the whole school to ensure that school can give the children the support they need.

[Will the school be open over the summer holidays?](#) The LA are against it and the CLT agree that teachers need a break. Keyworker children are also tired and need a break as they have been in school without a holiday since spring half-term. If trying to run catch up classes over the summer it is unlikely that it would be the ones that need them the most that come in. Everyone needs some space and time to reset and recharge for September. Swifts have asked if they can run some kind of holiday club however this has not been agreed at the moment due to different risk assessments.

The GB asked the HT about her well-being and if she was following LA advice to look after their well-being and take some time for themselves. The HT acknowledged that it has been hard work and there have been some highs and lows. She thanked the CLT for the support they have offered to her throughout. The GB encouraged the HT to take a break especially over the summer.

The GB asked the HT about staff wellbeing. The HT noted that the staff back in school have enjoyed being back and part of team again and seem ok. There was some anxiety during assigning classes but once it was in action staff

seem comfortable. Those staff still at home keep in touch and are being given tasks to keep them involved. The staff governor and DHT agreed that morale was good and the situation has really helped staff to gel as a team. Staff rally around each other if someone has a bad day and show great team work. The DHT is in touch with home team daily.

How is the transition for Y6? Has there been contact with secondary schools to manage transitions? Y6 are doing transition activities every afternoon that are being set by Longsands – either through google classroom or in their bubble. They are following what they would normally do and anything extra that Longsands send. Safeguarding and SEND handovers are being done with secondary schools.

How is communication and preparation for next years Foundation class? It is hard not being able to see the children and their transition in September will be over a longer period to manage this. There will be a Zoom meeting with parents on 3rd July (in 2 groups). In September the current plan is to split children in to 3 groups coming in for a week each to get to know them in a free flow environment between 2 teachers before assigning classes. School are setting up 'ready for school' web page with everything they need to know, photos of school, videos from adults in EY etc. Won't be a quick getting them in as would normally be. School are aware there are some children starting with significant additional needs, they are doing best to prepare for this by understanding the support they might need but it is hard not being able to see them. Mrs Moffatt has been taking the opportunity to ring pre-schools and nurseries for the incoming Foundation children to learn about them.

What happens if social distancing guidance changes to 1m tomorrow? School will wait for LA guidance before writing new plans. It may allow some extra children in to school but will wait for guidance. The HT commented that LA have been very supportive throughout with regular contact from the Cambs team with support and information and positivity. In this situation she is hugely thankful to have LA support.

Finance – how is it looking for next year? SBM positive that staffing costs look to be under what is budgeted in September. Hopeful that there also be some savings from this year with school being used less. Alison has been going through catering tender and is contacting a few governors for support. Notice has been given to E&B for October HT

What would it achieve by reporting attendance before 9th July? Are there any positive to doing it? There is just extra work to do and it will be so different for each child. The CLT don't feel it tells us, or the parents or carers, anything. Just to confirm, this is just this year, usually the CLT feel attendance is important as staff can draw attention to this in the report, especially where a child is not making progress related to their attendance

How has SEN been going following the LA presentation? Having 14 classes has really helped as we can have a TA shared between 2 classes in a year group to provide intervention as needed - whether this is planned "off the shelf" or a reaction to assessments from the morning lessons. This term SENDCo has been contacting all EHCP families on a weekly basis and reacting as and when needed. She has been keeping the CLT updated as well.