Houston Primary School Parent Council Meeting 1st September 2021

**Members present**

Nicki Barrett, Laura Masterton, Mrs Murray, Morven Feeley, Aileen Shaw, Alexis Alexander, John Gallacher, Lorraine Wilson, Victoria Lyons, Lindsay McCance, Chris Cleary, Jill Pytko, Allison Livingstone, Amanda Johnstone, Mrs McPherson, Anne Nimmo, Dr Cree, Gemma Donaldson, Sarah Paterson, Kirsty Turner, Laura Macleod, Nicola McNair, Lesley Bain, Emma Bull

Office Bearers all agreed to stay on, but a vice chair is needed.

It was discussed that we really need some new people on the council, especially in the younger year groups.

Chair Nicki Barrett opened the meeting with the sad news of Mrs Laird from the Nursery passing away, which was met with great sadness from all that knew her. Mr Laird passed on his thanks for the email that was circulated.

Nicki went on to say she was hopeful that we could get back to normal and have events etc going forward.

Treasurer’s report:

It was Kirsty’s first meeting as treasurer and she had to admit it was a massive job. Cheryl has handed over now to Kirsty, although will continue to help with events. It was discussed that small bank transfers were very un-user friendly, and an alternative may need to be made for payment.

£1043,13 was made in tea towel sales.

Without events, there was a dip in funds with only just over £4000 to be passed to the school.

Book Club report:

No bank activity from July 2020 so it stands at £475, some of that is on cards and some of that will be school leavers that have funds on their cards. We are hopeful to have a book fayre in November with the similar format as before which was successful.

Uniform Committee report:

Laura Masterton was able to report that it had been a busy year with P7 hoodies and tracksuits. Sales of tracksuits have doubled, with shorts on the way to add to the tracksuit for spring/summer next year.

New p7 leaver hoodies orders have started coming in. We have made a small profit from the online sales, but obviously it is less than last year. They are £600 in credit from school wear made easy. We have made in or around £75 from name tag sales also. In total we have made £3000 from uniforms last year.

Events team report:

No events have taken place to report back on. Mrs Murray voiced how sorry she felt for the events team. We are keen to do what we can, and Nicki has applied for lets but as it stands currently there is nothing planned going forward at this time.

Head teachers report:

Mrs Murray thanked everyone for the huge support provided to the school during these difficult times. Last year’s funds were limited but they so appreciate what they are given. This year’s funds have helped with renewing the accelerated reading programme and bought I pads.

She thanked the book fayre team as it had been a huge success, and also the uniform team as she identified that the transition to the web-based shop has been first class, she also said that she really loved the tracksuits and fellow colleagues had commented on how smart they look.

School role stands at 510 for 2021/2022. There has been no significant changes other than the dismantling of class bubbles.

A slight change to staffing with 3 teachers on Maternity leave and 3 new teachers.

It has been a cautious return to normality since the start of the new school year. Updates are expected later in the month. The school still has staggered play and lunch times, and they are awaiting updates for this. They are cautious with larger group activities, and whilst they are all very keen to get back to normality, health and well being is at the forefront, understandably.

The nursery has had some major hold ups, but by October they anticipate the old building to be levelled and returned to play suitable space.

There was some discussion around trying to pair back google classrooms as a way of communication with class teacher so an email or a phone call to the office would be preferred.

Mrs Farquhar said that they were hopeful active schools would be able to provide some activities, but funding has ben an issue so it will be a reduced service of 4/5 pre and after school activities a week.

They are looking to start a p7 playleaders scheme which seemed to be very popular. Active schools will be looking to engage with p6/7 pupils in playground games.

Bikeability was made available for p5 at level 1 last year and this will be repeated following its success, with p6 doing level 2 in May/June but we desperately need volunteers.

Beat the street initiative will be underway as of the 6th September with children being given swipe cards.

AOB:

Nicki will chase up photos to see what the delay is.

Next meeting will be in November, date to be decided.