

(Depute) HeadTeacher report for Parent Council – 17th March 2020

Staffing – Kirsty Martin has been appointed as Acting Head Teacher of Currie Primary School and will be taking up this post on Tuesday, 21st April of this year. This is a seconded post until January 2022. As it can often be difficult for schools to release promoted members of staff in the summer term, we have decided to wait until August to appoint a replacement and use the saving in our budget to allow class teachers and other staff to come out of class to develop aspects of the curriculum.

Cara Gordon is returning from Maternity Leave after the Easter Holidays. She has requested to reduce her hours and will be used in the summer term to release teachers for development work. After summer, she will partner with another member of staff to teach a class. She will be working 2 days a week until summer as a peripatetic (“floating”) member of staff. From August, she will be working 3 days a week and will probably partner with another member of staff to teach a class for the year.

Next term, our 3 Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) will be increasing their responsibility and time with their classes. They are no longer entitled to a day out of class each week in their final term of the first year of teaching.

Our 6 members of temporary staff have all now been through the interview process for the City of Edinburgh permanent positions. Decisions will be made in the summer term and successful candidates will be offered permanent position across the city. Because of the Scottish Government Decision to remove Teachers from Nursery Schools, however, priority will be given to those teachers before the latest interviewees can be placed.

Budget – this remains as at Jan 2020 :

Communities and Families continues to include the possibility of budget cuts in the next financial year. Council has a significant deficit and discussions are ongoing re the removal of Teachers from Nursery Schools and the proposed cuts to musical tuition across the city. There is some discussion that musical tuition may be offered on a means-tested basis.

Pupil Equity Funding – PEF funding has not yet been decided but it is expected that the amount will not vary much from last year. If this is confirmed, we intend to continue to use this fund to promote a Nurture-based approach to learning for many of our pupils. This has included our Pupil Support Officer, Kelly Tawake. Kelly has been running programmes to support children with issues around anxiety; planning and implementing nurture-based alternative timetables for some of our most vulnerable children; Art Group; running supported play at break and lunch times; organising and implementing Loose Parts in the playground. PEF has also allowed us to have Laura Nisbet continuing with Support for Learning with a nurture approach. We will also continue with our Family Worker, Sandra Brown, who is in school every Tuesday and continues to support many of our families.

Class organisation Aug 2020 – this remains as at Jan 2020 : enrolment for Aug sitting at 94. If numbers remain stable our proposed class organisation will be 22 classes (as for this year). It is currently not looking like we will have any composite classes but this does depend on numbers and these can change. Survey from CEC being produced for parents / carers / staff / pupils re criteria for composite class.

Building & Playground – information has now been received from playground group at CEC to allow us to continue with plans for outdoor library.

Have now received quote to replace gravel areas on the mound with wood chippings – successful in other schools. The quote is £12.5k. There is £5k set aside in the budget for this and the rest is hoped to come from PSA/Parent Council.

Inclusion – Revised approach very much in its infancy however it is proving to be beneficial at the moment. It is likely that a formulaic approach to the allocation of pupil support assistants for children with additional needs will replace the current audit paperwork. Such an approach is being seen as a positive step forward by HTs but will require monitoring.

Pupil progress – Very successful parents' consultations last week. There was a very good turnout for both the evening and afternoon slots. Rebecca Boath, School Administrator, was able to allocate many appointments as several parents had not self-booked through Parent Pay.

The P7 pupils were leading parents in a QR Code Questionnaire about parents' perceptions of their children's Health and Wellbeing at school and this generated very positive feedback. The results of this questionnaire will help to form our Improvement Plan for Session 20-21.

Visiting International Students – We had a large number of international students spend 2 days with us recently. They were impressed and confused in equal measure: How could our children be so independent? How could our teachers plan for such a range of ability and need?

The week after their visits to us, Kirsty Martin and Rebecca McKenzie took 6 children from across the school to talk at the University of Edinburgh about their experience of learning at Trinity. These Masters students of International Education continued to be extremely impressed by our learners and the children were equally impressed by the number of biscuits on offer to them!

Nutty About Numbers – Another whole school event that meant we could welcome parents in to share in our Numeracy Learning. We had a great turnout and the children were very pleased to share their work on Fractions, times tables, money calculations and Multiplying Menace problems!

Star Time – The biggest range of activities we have had at Star Time and this made for some varied experiences! Lots of parents came along to help and this was appreciated, as ever! Games were won and lost, Pom poms were made and (left) unmade, and football was played without the aid of VAR – crazy!

Health Updates – We reminded children at Friday's Assembly of the importance of proper and regular hand washing. We were reminded of the **how** and **how long** of hand washing. Teachers continue to deliver this message in classes and the children are reminded frequently to keep hands clean, to cough or sneeze into elbow and to use paper hankies, as required. As a school, we receive daily updates from City of Edinburgh Council on further developments of Covid-19 situation and remain vigilant.

As ever, the health and wellbeing of our learners and staff remains our top priority.