

Murrayfield Academy Council

11 November 2021 at 9:30am

Via Google Meet

Attendees: Claire Willis - Principal

Becky Blackman – Assistant Principal

Jo Pike – Academy Council member - Minutes

Louise Leah – Academy Council Member

Jo Brown – Academy Council Member

No further parents in attendance today

Summary

Please read through the minutes to see the discussions this term including improved results across the school, the pool is still closed but at an exciting stage of progress. The return of formal assessments including SATs. Please keep an eye out for more consistent homework coming through for your children and please complete google forms in relation to after school clubs once you receive them. After school clubs are hoping to increase in variety and frequency next term. Discussions happening regarding children's language on social media and what educational visits are currently being planned.

Please get in touch with the school or a council member if you have anything to raise for discussion at the next meeting in January. The senior leadership team are always available to speak to in the meantime.

Assessment at the end of the school year

Claire and Becky explained the changes to this academic year's formal end of year assessments. Formal assessments have been temporarily cancelled due to Covid and this has now lifted. Meaning the Year 2 and 6 SATs will be sat this year. Claire has stressed that these are practiced throughout the year and are not designed to put any pressure on the children. For the year 2 SATs these are assessed by the teachers unlike some of the year 6 papers.

In year 4 there is a statutory multiplication test which is carried out on the computer this year. This was introduced last year and was not statutory at that point, Claire did not carry this out as she wanted to put the wellbeing of the children first and felt this would be too much at that stage of the pandemic.



Phonics screening will also continue as normal and what is really promising is that we are looking for the third year in a row of a 100% pass rate which is a considerable difference to a few years ago. Claire and Becky both stress the importance of ensuring children are learning to read in these early school years.

Internal assessments are continuing as they did throughout the pandemic, and these are specifically designed to inform judgement on support requirement throughout the year. The children may often refer to these tests by different names, but they are simply in place to see what areas require extra work and support.

Some fantastic progress has been shared by Claire and Becky this term, including year 2 phonics, year 1 reading and year 6 maths.

Interventions

Claire and Becky discussed the interventions in place currently throughout the school. They are looking at targeting individuals and this included all individuals to support progress at any level. They are taking an approach that revolves around the individual student.

Certain years are currently being targeted and identified as ones requiring more intervention at this stage. This will move around the year groups as required. Currently phonics and reading is a focus point due to the importance of reading.

The emotional literacy project through the schools ELSA is currently focusing on year 6 transition to high school and will move onto year 5 next.

Swimming pool update

Claire has provided an update that the pool is still not complete but at a very exciting stage of this process. Designs are being considered and we are awaiting quotations. All attendees in agreement about the local community and how it would be a huge benefit to all. LL asked further about the idea of these sessions for SEN not only children but the wider community knowing how hard it has been to access this type of provision previously in the local area and this is something the school are keen to explore.

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Educational visits

Claire and Becky are both delighted that these are going ahead and there are plans for every year group.

JP raised the question of how all families will be able to access these trips and Claire has reassured that they are voluntary contributions, and they are more than happy for families to discuss directly with them if they would like to spread the payments or select a specific day to pay. Anyone with difficulties paying please speak directly to the school as they are keen to ensure no child is unable to access these experiences.

More educational visits are also being considered for the summer term.

Currently planned educational visits:

EYFS	Jimmy's Farm
Years 1 and 2	Pizza Express to make and eat pizzas linked with food technology
Year 3	St Edmundsbury Cathedral
Year 4	Colchester Castle and Sutton Hoo
Year 5	Hampton Court
Year 6	St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the Imperial war museum
Leap pad	These are direct discussions with families to see if they want a group trip or happy with additional support to join their year groups which will be provided. Experiences going into school are being looked for this year which Becky believes will really benefit Leap pad also to access similar experiences.

After School Clubs

A google form will be issued to families to gather views on interest in certain clubs as Sports this term was especially popular. Becky is keen for families to complete these when they are issued to look at popularity to cater for accordingly.

Young Voices concludes in January, but the school are looking at extending this provision currently. It started small this term in order to work out any teething problems with running after school clubs again.

The school are currently speaking to staff to see what clubs they can provide for next term.

JB said parents are looking for a variety and asked about potential links with the boxing club next door as well. JB will be talking directly with Gavin about this and will feed back to the school.

JP mentioned as a side note for Curtis that there is a lack of community provision for football for 6 years old and above so that might be something to consider in the future.



LL discussed EAL families accessing the notices for these clubs and if the school are looking at a way to ensure all families are aware of the clubs. Becky said they are certainly looking into this at the moment to ensure all children have access.

Suffolk County Council guidance on Covid-19

This was raised by JP as a request for clarity for all families as the government guidelines are different to the guidance currently coming from Suffolk County Council and it seems to lead to confusion across the school community.

Claire has clarified that the government/DFE issue guidelines which are the ones we are more familiar with, but the council risk assess at a local level creating another layer of guidelines based on the Covid risk level for the area. Currently Suffolk is identified as a high Covid area. As a result, the below are currently in force at the school but this changes constantly, and each school will be in a different stage depending on the current covid cases in that particular school.

When you have a case in your household, contact the school first thing and they will talk through the current advice.

The situation for Murrayfield now is:

- For families, facemasks are to be worn on site and this includes the playgrounds.
- There is no need for bubbles on the school site but interactions in enclosed spaces should be limited.
- Visitors are restricted to health and welfare visits only.
- Ventilation to be continued and masks required for face-to-face interactions if ventilation is not sufficient.

AOB

School photographs, LL raised concerns over the quality this year, making a complaint directly to the company who have even offered a refund, and feedback has been taken on by the school for future note when booking a company.

Homework, JB has raised concerns about lack of consistency with this and not only across the school but also across the same year group. Claire is recently aware and has said it should be issued consistently and with enough time to complete. It is high on her radar and is being addressed at this afternoon's staff meetings to clarify this with the teaching staff.

Social media, JB asked about the approach to the children's use of language on social media as this is becoming an escalating problem at this time. This is high on the agenda and discussions have already been had in school. This is being requested at all Do Now



sessions tomorrow morning and as the PSHE topic this week. Another special assembly is also being arranged.

Thank you all in attendance and thank you again to Claire and Becky for taking the time and answering questions during your busy day. It is highly appreciated by the council members and wider school community, and this provides a real snapshot of what is happening in the school at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for January and will be again open to the whole school community.