

HeadTeacher report for Parent Council – 9th Oct 2018

School roll is currently 584 - there continues to be a fair bit of movement in and out. We currently have space at all stages apart from P1

Staffing – We are fortunate to have fairly stable staffing and a high attendance rate. Aimi Armstrong, Principal Teacher, will be going on maternity leave after the Oct holidays. We all wish her well and look forward to meeting Baby Armstrong in the not too distant future. Mrs Ashraf will be working an additional day each week to provide some additional support. Our two newly qualified teachers, Ms Adele Redman at P3 and Ms Samantha Graham at P4, have settled in well at Trinity. As is policy for all newly qualified teachers, each of them are released from class contact for a day each week. Their classes will be taught by Mrs Ashraf on those days.

An advert for a full time clerical assistant closed on Fri 28th September. This post has arisen due to Mrs Niki Chalmers taking up a post at Trinity Academy. Mrs Chalmers will be a great miss so we are delighted that she has agreed to continue to be at TPS for a half a day each week. This time will be given to admin support for our Additional Support for Learning team. There were over 50 applications for the post and it is hoped to carry out interviews during the week of Oct 8th.

Budget – we continue to work within our devolved school management budget. It is anticipated that our main budget spend this year, outwith the ongoing running of the school with regards to consumables etc, will be on IT (we are currently reviewing our IT strategy in line with the refresh of our PCs) and on literacy resources.

We are extremely grateful to the Parent Council for their donation of £740 and to the Trinity Parent Staff Association for their offer of £13,000. We will be considering how best to spend this as a matter of priority.

Pupil Equity Funding – our PEF remains at £72,000. This is continuing to be used to finance Liz Duncanson our family support worker. She is now in school every Tuesday and on a Wednesday morning. Feedback from parents is extremely positive and we are confident that increased parental engagement will result in improved attainment for a group of identified pupils. A group of pupils will be attending therapy through art at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and we continue to provide nurture approaches with an emphasis on improvement in literacy. Ms Nisbet is employed for two days a week to support this. We are also working with Skillsforce who are delivering the Prince William Award to all P5 pupils. Whilst this is a universal intervention, we are monitoring the effect on identified pupils with regard to their confidence, emotional wellbeing and motivation. Our revised tracking sheets take account of the 5 main indicators for raising attainment - attainment, inclusion / exclusion, attendance / lateness, participation and engagement.

Communication – Feedback from the Meet the Teacher evening was generally positive with regards to the different ways we communicate. A poster indicating what we do and how parents / carers will receive information is being developed and will be placed on the website.

Building and playground – meeting scheduled for Wed 3rd Oct to discuss building works amounting from the £1.2m allocated to TPS. The cloakroom area in the pavilion has now been installed which has made a significant difference. There is ongoing discussion regarding the acoustics and we are awaiting notification of a visit from a sound engineer. A request has also been made for the sound engineer to look at what can be done in the dining hall to reduce noise.

Our chickens are due to arrive at the end of the week beginning 1st Oct. A huge thanks to Mrs Armstrong and to a group of very dedicated parents who have worked tirelessly to ensure

Egginburgh Castle is ready for our new arrivals. All classes will have responsibility for ensuring the upkeep of the chickens with P4 pupils involved with a Henterprise project to sell the eggs. It was fabulous to hear of our true community spirit with many families signing up to put the chickens to bed!

Playground update – separate agenda item

Learning at Trinity – MADD Around the World, P1 World of Play, Meerkat Manners, P4 dance and puppets, Trinity Together, Ukelele, Mini Kickers, BATS rugby

Jacqueline Scott