

## Flushing Church of England Primary School Governing Body Meeting

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Zoom meeting due to Covid-19 Lockdown

### MINUTES

#### **In attendance:**

Mark French, Bob Hurrell, Alison Eva, Leslie Hygate, Andrew Stevenson, Stacey Mullins, Polly Tregaskes, & Lisa Beverley-Jones, Hayley Tucker (clerking)

#### **Apologies**

Helen Dodd

Meeting started at 11.05

#### **Prayer**

A prayer was said by AS to start the meeting

#### **1) Pecuniary interest registration (verbal/written declaration)**

No new interests to register

#### **2) Minutes from the previous meeting**

All agreed they were a true record of the meeting and they will be signed by Robert H and given to Hayley at a later date.

#### **3) Matters arising from the previous minutes**

Matters arising will be dealt with during individual agenda items.

#### **4) Finance**

##### **Covid-19 Costs**

MF advised that at the start of the coronavirus outbreak, the Government promised that all costs arising from the disease would be covered and that claim forms would be distributed by 1<sup>st</sup> June. These forms have not yet materialised and we have spent approx. £1,350 on putting in additional Covid measures.

The Bursar has not given any update on the budget, so we are assuming that all is running as expected and there is nothing more to report.

#### **5) Provision**

##### **A) So far**

MF advised that most Year 6 pupils are now back in school (7 out of 10), all is going well, and they seem to be enjoying being back.

EYFS came back in on Monday (15<sup>th</sup>), which has gone smoothly so far and there have been no problems. There were more parental queries for this group re how it would work but none of them have come back to him since their return and all seem happy. The weather has been kind to us so far which meant they could spend a lot of time outdoors but the inside and veranda areas have been split into individual areas when they are unable to be outside to ensure social distancing as much as possible.

The Key Worker and Vulnerable pupils have increased to 9 which will go down when Year 1 return next week but may go up again as more parents return to work. The only issues within this group is the large age-gap, from nursery to Year 6 can be tricky to balance whilst keeping social distances but it can, and has, worked.

MF was very pleased to report that there has not been one single complaint since lockdown; we have done our best to keep everyone informed, and busy with home-learning plans and schoolwork so that parents are able to plan their time in advance. LBJ advised that it has worked well and she cannot fault the system as a parent.

One governor advised they had heard comments from parents about live teaching online as Penryn College are able to deliver this to their pupils. MF advised that it is much harder to deliver live to primary aged pupils as they teach pupils across such varied abilities and it puts so much pressure on the teaching staff which he does not feel is required at this time. Live online teaching inevitably comes with its own set of issues, not least connection / technology problems which are avoidable using the home-learning plans as we have however, everything is constantly under review. We have fed in some pre recorded lessons using White Rose Maths for example, which is easier for our pupils to pause the video and work at their own speed. He also reminded the Governors that the teaching staff are now for the most part, juggling both the home-learning at teaching within school for the pupils who have returned / are returning and whilst it could potentially help the older pupils, it would be hard to deliver across the school. One governor advised that her younger child does not get on at all with live online lessons – the music lessons they tried were given up after the second attempt as she could not engage at all.

SM advised that Oak National School was worth looking into as they have many pre recorded lessons which are available to use. MF advised that he had investigated this resource previously and initially the lessons were coming out weekly and as they did not align with our home-learning plan that day it was hard to incorporate. However now that there is a database of lessons available it may be that there are lessons relevant to the topics that can be added to the learning grids.

It was asked whether we would be continuing with issuing work to pupils after 10<sup>th</sup> July when many of the Penryn College pupils will no longer be given additional work to complete at home. MF said he did not feel that we could end the term on the 10<sup>th</sup>. With the Government daily briefings mentioning Summer Schools on several occasions now we are unsure where this will leave us over the holidays, but he is unsure how they could force us to provide cover through the summer within our school, and that it will more than likely be centred around sports within secondary schools, but we will have to wait and see. With this in mind, we will continue to provide work up to the end of term.

SM asked whether our online engagement has been sustained over lockdown so far. MF advised that it is hard to tell due to the way in which work is submitted. Some parents/pupils submit each piece as they go along, some send it all at the end of the day/week etc – it is likely that even the few who have sent nothing have something to bring back with them. However, he can see that nearly everyone is regularly engaging in some form by looking at what has been accessed online.

## **B) Next steps**

Due to the most recent Government guidelines, we are unlikely to be able to open to all pupils as we had hoped to. Whilst the guidelines are often open to interpretation, as we are an LA school, we must stick more rigidly to the guidelines lest there be any complaints or comeback from our decisions. Choosing which children return could leave us open to these. The ways to move forward are:

- A. We stick to our original plan of having half the year groups in at a time i.e. Year 1, 3 and 6 Monday and Tuesday, deep clean Wednesday and Year 2, 4 & 5 on Thursdays and Friday)
- B. Continue to offer spaces to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, and give a time limit to any of these pupils who have not taken up their place and returned so we can offer these spaces to specific pupils in the next year group who would benefit from the time in school.
- C. Remain with only the pupils we have in school currently and allow the pupils from these year groups who have not yet returned with a space to do so if they change their mind.

AS made it clear that we have to do what we feel is the safest, as we have no idea what the next few weeks will bring, and that we are still in an active virus situation – it has not gone away and we are responsible for keeping the children and staff safe. The parent Governors felt it is in the best interest of the children to offer all pupils time in school before the end of term if there is any possibility of doing so safely. MF advised he felt he could keep them safe (as possible), with all plans as the teaching staff and pupils would remain in their bubbles all day, and not mix, except for the Lunchtime Supervisor. But if one member of staff went off sick, the whole class would have to remain off too as we are unable to fund additional teaching staff during this time. PT queried whether having pupils in part time went against the most recent guidance (which states there should be no rotas of pupils in action), and MF advised it does. If we went with plan A, we would have to seek approval from both the LA and the diocese as it leaves us open to complaints and criticism.

The Governors took a vote:

1. Plan A (half year groups in Monday Tues, deep clean weds & other Yrs in Thurs & Fri)
2. Plan B (introduce additional pupils into existing R, Y1 & Y6 bubbles)
3. Remain as it is currently with no additional pupils

The Governors unanimously voted for plan A on the proviso that approval (in writing), was sought from County and The Diocese. If this was not given, Plan B will be put into action. MF will contact the Local Authority and the Diocese today.

### **Plan for September**

MF advised that if restrictions stay at 2m social distancing in September, that we will be in the same situation we are now as we do not have the space on site to add additional teaching space (portacabin etc). But we are hoping to be able to use the Village Club. We could have temporary partition added to create two classroom bubbles there if necessary, as all facilities required are there (outside space, toilets etc); There are no other viable spaces within reach (the sailing club bar and outside space make that impossible, and the Church Hall is simply too far off site should there be any issues.

If the distancing drops to 1m, we could make every class, except the seals, work within school, in which case, we will still have to use the club: MF to discuss the possibility of using full time in September with the club committee.

### **Andrew Stevenson left at 12pm to attend another meeting**

RH thanked Mark for all his hard work during these constant changes. The Governors are very grateful.

MF in turn, thanked the staff, as their enthusiasm has been amazing during this difficult time.

### **End of Term:**

- Sports day is being replaced with the Virtual School games – children will be able to take part in activities both at home and in school.
- Prize giving will go ahead, not sure in what format – maybe a live broadcast.
- School reports will go out as planned.
- Transition sessions will only be held for the new Reception pupils on Wednesdays in the Pavilion.
- Leaver's Service will most likely be only for the Year 6 parents and will not be in church.
- The Flambards trip may be during a weekend or in the holidays – if it opens. PT will discuss this with the Friends of Flushing School.

- The School Play will hopefully be incorporated into the school day, recorded and edited together. This will depend on which children will be allowed to come back before the end of term, but it will go ahead in one form or another.

**6) Confidential**

None

**7) Dates of next meetings (discuss any changes)**

TBC but currently Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm

**8) *A.O.B. agreed by Bob 24 hours before the meeting***

None