

AOCB – Parent Council 2.9.20

- Some schools in Highland are not operating a "bubble" system during break and lunch and as many children are mixing outwith these groups in the evening or at the weekend parents were looking for guidance as to why this was necessary? (I think this is around the issue of split year groups where friends are not in the same class bubble as well as siblings who live together being kept apart)

This is one of our risk mitigations and follows Government advice;

Section 41 - In both primary and secondary settings, the preference would always be to avoid large gatherings and crowded spaces and, wherever possible, to keep children and young people within the same groups for the duration of the school day.

Thus, making contact tracing much easier and aiming to have fewer children need to isolate in the event of a positive case.

It also allows us to have resources in the playground which need cleaned or left for 72 hours between groups. This is possible from Friday break to Monday break between groups.

- After attending 2 virtual meetings with HPCP where there were a number of parent councils on the call there was mention of a group messaging system called See- Saw which some are using and finding effective along with the class blogs etc. Do you know if GUPS has this? The Highland Council IT department have approved the use of this but not Dojo which has GDPR issues. I was not aware we used either but thought it might prove useful for you?

SeeSaw is another online platform and mainly used for profiling. We have chosen to use Class blogs, paper profiles/Google sites for P6/7 as these are what parents and staff are familiar with and have had positive feedback in the past. We also have Google Classroom which is what all children are working through and will use in High School. We do not wish to have too many platforms for parents or staff and would need to look at training to support it. I spoke with other schools and our ICT advisor to find out more though - we would need to consider pupil ownership of these – devices to access and update in P2-5 verses jotters which are easily accessible. There are also cost implications for more than the very basic package. However, would support easy transition between home and school and work not getting returned/lost. Parental thoughts on whether I should look into this more?

- Hand washing seems to be a bit of a sore point and there are some children grumbling but I am sure you know this and wondered if you thought it would be useful for someone (perhaps Kath Jones as she is a GP) to make a video message about germs and why it was important? I know she offered to come into school but we know she can't do that so a virtual chat might be an option. Maybe Highland Council has one already?

Hand washing is one of our main risk mitigations and we have to follow clear guidance as to when and how we do this from Health Protection Scotland and Highland Council. All children have been guided by their teacher and there are online resources to support which we can show. It would be great to have Kath do a video we could show our children though if she is willing to do this. I can also speak to teachers about experiments around hand washing to support however, this was done quite a lot before lockdown.

- Drinking water and school lunches - just looking for feedback on how you are finding this (I was told Nicky Grant approved free bottled water) lots of schools are only getting sandwiches and no soup or drinks or anything else for that matter so wanted to check if parents were happy with what you can provide as I was not sure if all schools were being treated the same. High School canteen is open as normal.

We have drinking water freely available for all children and do not have any issues with this. We have a Grab and Go option for lunch and are working with catering to see how and when we can increase this.

- Would you be able to confirm what parents should do if their child has a cold? If they have a cough or high temp it would seem Covid testing and staying off school would be the correct course of action but if they have a runny nose should they stay off? I have seen what was sent out by Highland Council but I think this might be more about what you feel we should do locally and what is the sensible approach.

Advice from Scottish Government issued on the News blog.