



PPG Meeting – HT Report

Thursday 3rd February 2022

Staffing

I am delighted to have been made permanent after a short period of being Acting HT. This short period of Acting HT allowed me to work with the staff to identify our priorities going forward which will be addressed later in this report.

In December we welcomed Alice Burge to the team. She has joined us from East Renfrew on a permanent basis and is our new P7 teacher. She has settled in well and is supporting the P7 pupils develop a sense of routine after a period of unsettledness with a number of supply teachers.

Mrs Whytock, our NCCT teacher and probationer cover, is on maternity leave currently and this time had been covered by Miss Buchan. Mrs Ward is now covering this probationer cover and NCCT since her return to work after an absence. We are delighted to have Mrs Ward back with the Rothie team on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mrs Wells and I have recently interviewed for an Early Years Practitioner to replace Alix Sharpe who was on a secondment but has since been offered a new job. We have a preferred candidate for this post and are awaiting checks by the HR department before being able to arrange a start date.

Unfortunately we will be saying good bye and good luck to Mrs Wells in the nursery. She has decided to return to teaching and has been successfully appointed as an ASL teacher in the Huntly Cluster.

Staffing has been impacted by illness and self-isolation, however we have been able to remain fully operational.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their efforts in supporting our pupils during this transition period of the new HT, on top of the current difficulties with COVID. They have been very welcoming, honest in their evaluations and open to new ways of working to make improvements.

COVID Update

During my first few weeks at Rothienorman, there were positive cases reported and warn and inform letters send to parents as per guidance. I will continue to keep staff and families up to date with the latest guidance as we are given it. Parents are encouraged to continue to inform the school of any positive cases when reporting a pupil absence.



Schools are being asked to use CO2 monitors to check the quality of the air, this alerts staff for the need to improve ventilation. We have monitors in school that allow us to have a monitor in each learning space.

School Priorities

Since joining the school we have developed a new short term planning format, these cover approximately 6 weeks at a time. The staff are in the initial stages of planning and assessing together with the teachers in the classes beside them to develop a cohesive and progressive approach. I have arranged training in March to support us with this process.

I have identified the following priorities at Rothienorman: more cohesive learning and teaching, developing positive relationships and increasing pupil voice. To support these developments I have set up Development Working Groups with the teaching staff, the focus of these groups are literacy, numeracy and H&W. The purpose of these groups is to improve learning, teaching and assessment in literacy and numeracy and to develop a positive relationship ethos and policy.

We would like to collaborate with parents for the writing of the positive relationships policy to ensure that it aligns with the Rothienorman community values.

During the upcoming in-service days school staff will be developing their skills in restorative approaches and emotion coaching to support our positive relationships approach. They will also have time in their development groups to develop the areas of the curriculum that have been targeted.

Reporting Calendar

I am keen to work with the PPG, or a sub-group, to develop our reporting calendar. I have proposed to the staff that in future years there are 2 formal written reports a year, a brief one in November and a full report in Term 4. I would like to work with staff and parents to discuss the content of these reports to ensure that they provide information on progress and next steps for pupils. I have also proposed that there is a short parents night in term 1, face-to-face if restrictions are eased or online, and a full parents night in term 4.

We will continue to use SEESAW, termly class newsletters and school newsletters to share information.

Scottish Government and COVID Funding

At the start of the school session Rothienorman was awarded funding to support pupils return to school after the upset in education due to COVID. This money must be used on staffing before 31st March. I am using this money to fund a part time ASL



teacher to support nurturing approaches and emotional regulation on a part time basis until 31st March. I am also using this money to extend the days that our Family Link Worker supports the pupils in school. From next week until 31st March Mrs Robertson will be working with us in this role 5 days per week. I have also funding a full time PSA on this short term basis who started with the school this week.

Transitions

Planning is already underway to ensure that our P7's have a positive transition to secondary school. We have been sharing information with the secondary. Meldrum Academy plan to send out Admission Packs to schools to share with parents/carers. There is a date set for a Meldrum Academy Virtual Information Evening for P7 parents/carers.

Nursery to P1 transitions will be planned alongside our nursery team and the private nursery to ensure a positive transition for all.

School Photographs

The following dates have been arranged for school photographs:

Individual photographs Tuesday 8th March

Family Photographs Thursday 12th May

Out of school club

The out of school club is not connected to the school but is used by families of the school. The most recent update that I have been given regarding this is that they are trying to recruit a qualified manager to meet Care Inspectorate requirements. This job was due to close on 16th Jan 2022.

Swimming

Swimming sessions have been arranged for P5 and P6 this session. P6's are finishing up their sessions and P5 will start their sessions after the mid-term break.

Bikeability

Bikeability sessions will be taking place this year. these will be later in the session once the weather improves. Further information will be shared nearer the time.