



Braidburn School Parent Council

Head Teacher's Report - 8 November 2021

General News

School Improvement Plans – I am delighted to share our Braidburn School Improvement Plans for this year. Our Improvement Plans (*Teaching, Learning & Assessment, Health & Wellbeing/Resilience and Equity & Inclusion*) outline our school priorities for this session, and will be displayed on our school website. As always, we will be taking our school priorities forward in staff Development Groups – with the following groups now meeting regularly to take forward our improvement priorities for this year:

- *Digital Learning* (Lead: Justine Fialka)
- *Curriculum Development* (Lead: Becky Wallace/Fionnuala Hamill)
- *Outdoor Learning* (Lead: Stephanie Garner)
- *Communication* (Lead: Aileen Higginson)
- *BSL Development* (Lead Claire Mackay)

Parent Consultation Meetings – Following our recent 'Meet the Teacher' phone calls, we will be holding our Parent Consultation Meetings during the week beginning 15 November. Current restrictions continue to prevent us from holding any events within our school building, and parents and carers will have the option of a consultation via Microsoft Teams or phone call.

Senior Phase Options – Our young people in S4 – 6 are now settling into their Senior Phase 'Options' groups and are working towards SQA awards in their chosen focus areas of learning. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our afternoon and evening information sessions in September. Initial feedback regarding our new 'Options' has been very positive.

Green Class Learning Outdoors - Our Green class have been making the most of our local environment with some outdoor learning experiences in Braidburn woods. The children have enjoyed walking in the woods and have taken part in a range of activities including leaf collecting, looking for insects and building dens. Our Green Class learners love spending time outdoors, exploring - and often ask to go out to the woods.



Drake Music – We are delighted to welcome Drake Music Scotland back into school. Drake Music Scotland are a leading organisation in inclusive music technologies, enabling children and young people to develop their music making skills; and they are now delivering 'in person' music experiences for learners in our Secondary department on Friday mornings.

Lockdown Exhibition – Well done to our Braidburn learners who took part in a collaborative art project alongside Oaklands School, Rowanfield School and Craigroyston Primary School – and who recently had their work displayed in an exhibition at *North Edinburgh Arts*. The

theme of the exhibition was 'What lockdown meant to me'. This project was an opportunity for our young people to reflect what lockdown meant for them and to have their work on display in an art gallery.

Halloween – We had lots of spooky fun in school at Halloween; and it was fantastic to see learners at all stages across our school enjoying a wide range of lovely Halloween learning experiences.



Children in Need Children in Need will take place on Friday 19 November. We will not be collecting money in school this year, but our learners are very welcome to come into school wearing spots, pyjamas or their favourite Pudsey inspired outfits.

Relay for Matt – The final total raised in the 'Relay for Matt', a sponsored Olympic Torch Relay to raise funds in memory of Matthew Tambyraja, is £15 725. A plan will be made to use this money to purchase a resource for children to enjoy and benefit from outdoors, at the request of Matthew's brother Daniel who organised and took part in the relay with his classmates from Edinburgh Academy.

Staffing news

Fionnuala Hamill has now taken up post as permanent Depute Head Teacher in our Primary department. Fionnuala comes to us with significant experience in the role of Depute Head Teacher in Specialist Provision (including experience at Braidburn) and we are delighted to welcome Fionnuala onto our Braidburn team.

Pupil Support Assistant update - We are delighted to welcome Rory West, Marie Johnston, Caitlin Thomas, Kim Allan, Chloe Lyall and Becky Cheyne on to our Braidburn team. Lynsey Perrie and Emer O'Reilly will be leaving our team over the next few weeks to pursue new, exciting challenges.

Jane Gray will be retiring from her post at Braidburn at the end of November. Jane has supported so many children and young people across all stages of our school – with significant experience as part of our Nursery team. We wish Jane all the very best in her retirement.

We are currently recruiting to fill 5 Pupil Support Assistant vacancies across our school.

Nursery Nurse update:

Pamela Duncan will be leaving her post at Braidburn on 10 November to take up a new role in another provision. Pam has supported learners across Nursery, Primary and Secondary at Braidburn – and we wish her all the very best in her new post.

Other staffing news:

Maria Day, our office administrator, left her post at Braidburn on 29 October. I know our staff and parents will miss Maria very much – and we wish her all the very best for the future. Recruitment is underway to fill the post of office administrator.

Friends of Braidburn (FOBS) update:

Shona Moyes, our FOBS secretary, has now stepped down from her post due to other commitments. Shona has supported FOBS over many years – and will continue to help us out with fundraising events in the future. We are delighted that Anna Anderson, one of our Primary department parents, has now taken up the role of Secretary.

Our FOBS committee have approved £2080 funding towards the purchase of some ‘Tonie Box’ sets. A set will be provided for every class across the school. Tonie Boxes are cordless audio systems that play stories and songs; and we are very grateful to FOBS for funding these.

FOBS have once again provided £50 for each class, to support the purchase of Christmas craft resources or offsite Christmas excursions. Our class teams will identify resources or excursions, as appropriate for their class groups.

FOBS have funded a projector and screen for our gym hall alongside an interactive screen for our library (which we will be developing as a Community Room). This funding exceeds £10 000, and we are hugely grateful to FOBS for supporting this.

Next FOBS meeting date: 22 November 2021 (7pm via Microsoft Teams)

Notable Dates

Week beginning 15 November	Parent Consultations (via phone or Microsoft Teams)
Week beginning 13 December	Christmas jumper week
14 December	Christmas lunch
15/16 December	Primary ‘bubble’ parties
17 December	Class Newsletters distributed End of Term
5 January	Staff resume
6 January	Learners resume

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