

Towerbank Parent Council AGM 2024

11th September 2024 6:30pm to 8pm

Agenda

1. Welcome - 4 mins
 - a. What is the AGM
 - Overview of what's happened last year
 - Goals/objectives for this year
2. Headteacher update - 20 mins
3. Voting new roles - 5 mins
 - a. Kerry and Gemma staying on as Co-Chairs
 - b. Fergus standing for secretary, supported by Josie with governance
 - c. Stephanie Dodds is moving on from the school so will need a new treasurer next year ideally starting before the end of the year so there's a handover - needs to be a CA
4. Financial review - 5 mins
 - a. Treasurer Stephanie Dodds won't be there, so Fergus will present
5. Theatre plans for 2024/25 - 8 mins
 - a. Katy present the theatre suggestions, explain what the plan is and how much it will cost
 - b. Vote on the expense if required
6. Fundraising plans - 10 mins
 - a. Gemma will give an update on fundraising plans for this year
7. Wildlife garden update - 10 mins
 - a. Kate present an update on where we're at and what the next steps are
8. Library update - 10 mins
 - a. New seating required with approx £900 cost
 - <https://peters.co.uk/furniture/brights>
 - 33 soft items are needed in total for all kids to have a seat
 - 10 x beanbags from here @ £65 each = £650 + maybe 20 x stackable cushions @ £130 = £260
 - There are already 3 beanbags in library (I think) so that would seat a full class - total to request = £910
 - They put forward 10x beanbags and 20 x cushions (then the remaining 3 beanbags refilled)
 - Space can't fit more than approx 13 beanbags
 - b. Suggestion of ongoing annual budget of £500 for new books and repairs/maintenance
 - c. Call for volunteer to take on outdoor library project
9. Fair update - 10 mins
 - a. Volunteering work from last year

- b. Fairs and financial impact of them
 - c. What's expected this year and requirement for volunteers
- 10. ASN update - 8 mins
 - a. Rebecca and Jenny to present
- 11. Website update - 5 mins
 - a. Noticeboard
 - b. Calendar of events
 - c. Volunteering vacancies/requirements
 - Treasurer
 - Tipi
 - Discos from next year
 - Outdoor library project
 - What current volunteering opportunities are there

Attendance

Present

Alasdair Friend, Catrina Innes, Katherine Collier, Jennie, Kate Breck, Laura, Sarah, Eve, Tamara, Lindsay, Cara, Gemma, Fergus, Louse, Yvonne, Alexa, Amy, Steve, Rebecca, Hannah, Will, Katy, Clare Polson

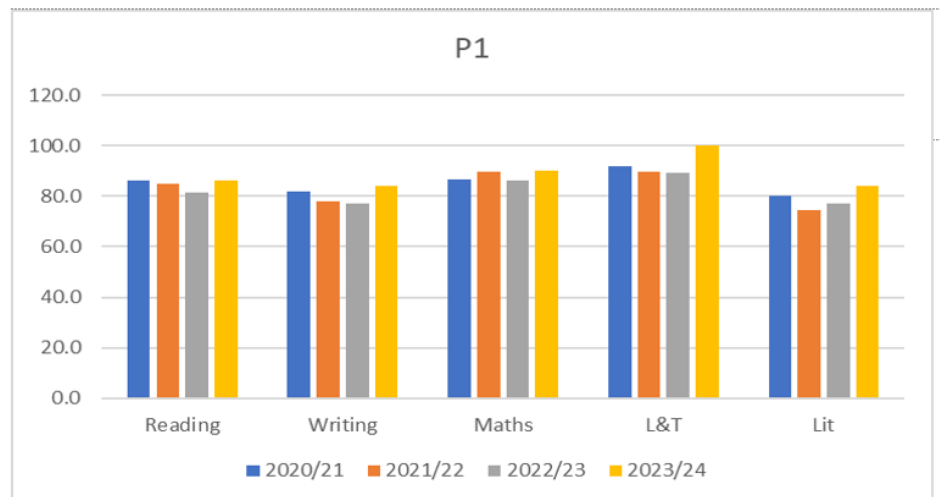
Apologies

Kerry-Anne Saouter, Kristina Currie, SORCHA Philip, Pippa Ricketts-Alighieri, Sarah, Alex Howat, Alison McQuarrie

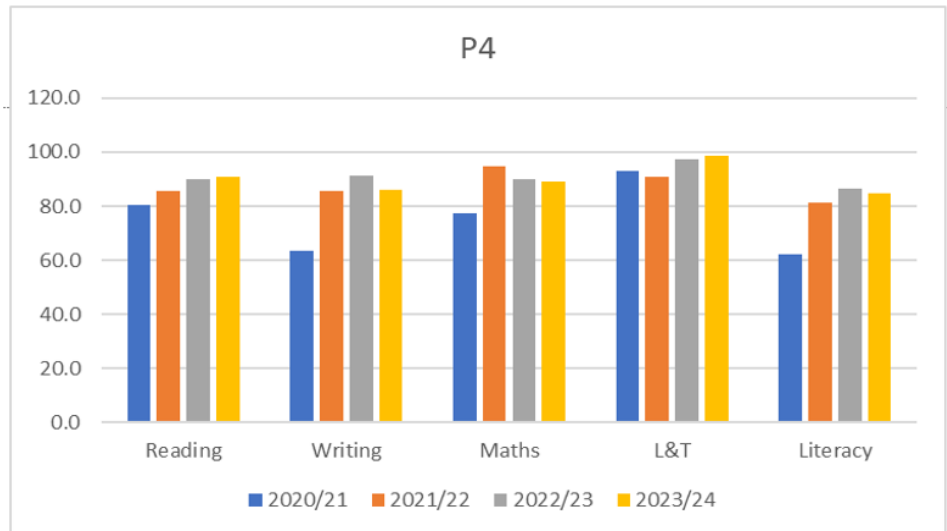
Discussion

1. Welcome
 - a. What happened last year
 - i. School fairs/discos
 - ii. School photos
 - iii. Progress with the wildlife garden
 - b. Intros of people's names/classes of pupils
2. Headteacher update
 - a. Created new play space for P2s and moved them into the main building
 - b. School has to operate for the individual kids, and at a school level, and at a wider level
 - c. Quiz on school numbers
 - i. What is our school roll? 488

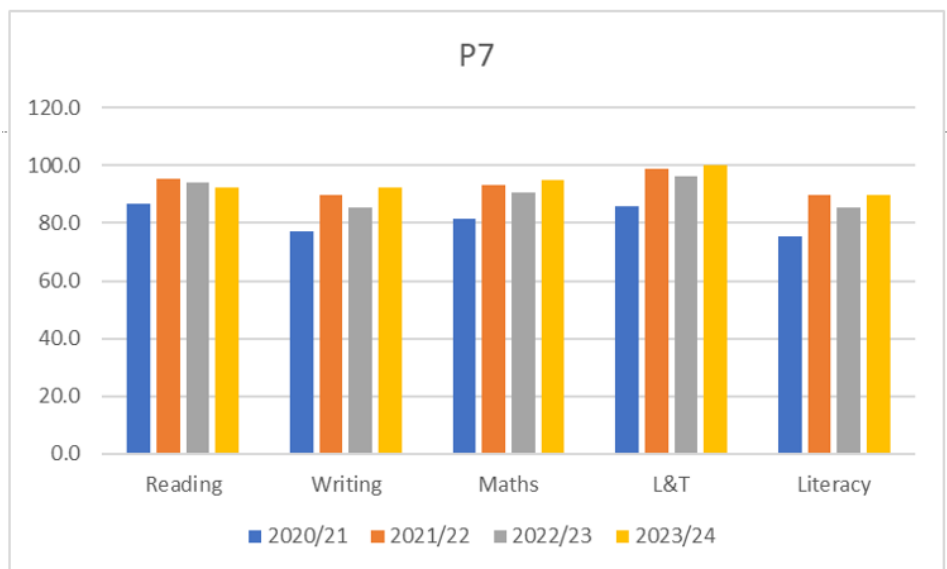
- ii. What is the distribution of learners by sex - boys/girls/other? 52% boys/48% girls
- iii. What is the % of children living in SIMD 1 or 2? 11 = 2%
 - 1. Schools with higher percentage get more funding
- iv. How many languages are represented? 33
- v. What are the four top languages (other than English) spoken? French, Spanish, Cantonese, Punjabi
- vi. How many families identified themselves as having a faith? 24%
- vii. How many learners have a registered disability? 5 - 1%
- viii. How many learners have Child Planning Meetings? 50
- ix. What percent are currently 'looked after'? 2%
- x. What is the percent of black and ethnic minority children? 66 children - 13%
 - 1. Lower than Edinburgh average
- d. Attainment at P1, P4 and P7 across reading, writing, maths, listening and talking, literacy
 - i. School doing really well, consistently over 80%



ii.



iii.



iv.

e. School values

- i. Friendly
- ii. Inclusive
- iii. Positive
- iv. Creative
- v. Community

f. School improvement plan is on the school website

- i. Reporting, writing, sustainability
- ii. Reporting meetings with parents and carers on Thursday and Friday this week

3. Voting on new roles

- a. Fergus as secretary - majority voted in favour
- b. Josie to support with governance - majority voted in favour
- c. Stephanie Dodds stepping down as treasurer

4. Funding overview

5. Theatre plans

- a. Last year we had 2 shows for the whole school
- b. This year options are Ginger which P1 and P2 are going to have through the school as they don't go to the Lyceum
 - i. Ginger only up to P4
- c. Another show which could be interesting but only for P7s as quite mature
 - i. Shows cost £500/day plus VAT which covers 2 shows
 - ii. Capacity is 120 kids per show
- d. P5s get Scottish Opera
- e. Not as much work being made at the moment so no other shows available for other years
- f. Historically TPC have subsidised all children that go to the Lyceum so that cost gets reduced down to £5, costs £12/13 per child plus buses/coaches
- g. Great to have theatre in the school so sounds great
- h. School maybe need to make a call on the content of the show and whether suitable for P6 or not, and whether it fits with the curriculum and other things happening
 - i. Further discussion required to make a call
- j. Vote on TPG contributing to 2 performances of Ginger
 - i. Voted in with a majority

6. Fundraising plans

- a. Fundraising sub-committee
- b. Booked the town hall for a Burns Supper/Ceilidh which will be open to anyone who wants to buy a ticket
 - i. Ceilidh band, silent auction
 - ii. Could be good for bringing school community together and raising money for the TPG
 - iii. If that goes well then look to do another event in the summer

7. Wildlife garden update

- a. People parliament process was completed last year with Learning Through Landscapes
- b. Had a meeting with the Edinburgh Tool Library to build things with wood that came out of old groins on the beach
 - i. Working with them to find a date in November to come in over the weekend to build those two pieces
- c. Looking for volunteers to help out with that weekend when it comes
 - i. Need to provide lunch for them
- d. Still £6000 in the playspace fund which was specifically raised to provide improvements to the play space
- e. If not all used in the wildlife garden could put ideas out to the rest of the school to see what we could do with the money

8. Library update

- a. Group of people that look after the library and new people coming in that come in on a Friday morning and help to tidy and look after the library
 - b. All classes have a library day so they get access to the library once a week
 - c. Since the beginning of term 1200 loans
 - d. Currently 300 books on loan
 - e. Range of different books for different ages including content for older kids, graphic novels, dyslexia specific books
 - i. Graphic novels are most borrowed book - Roller Girl is number 1
 - f. Library was set up in 2018 so recently turned 5
 - g. Library does take donations but is really full at the moment so one in one out, would like to review donation books before receiving them to ensure they're what's required
 - i. Other books could go into class libraries as well
 - h. Funding request
 - i. £500 annual funding to be added to the library pot for maintenance and ongoing book updates/purchases/supplies
 - 1. Voted in by a majority of those present
 - ii. £910 for bean bags and smaller stackable cushions
 - 1. Voted in by majority of those present
 - i. The library is such a fantastic resource to have for all the children and it wouldn't happen without the amazing work of the volunteers that come in every Friday - huge asset to the school
9. Fair update
- a. Summer fair and Christmas fair
 - i. Christmas fair raised £1700
 - ii. Summer fair raised £2300
 - b. This year Christmas fair will take place on 7th December
 - i. Requires a lot of volunteers to work successfully
 - c. Christmas fair will be the last year that Clare and Lisa Shine will be coordinating the fairs so needs new people to take over running the fairs for the next few years
 - d. Angie and David are still willing to coordinate the discos, Clare stepping down but always welcome to have more support to manage them
10. ASN update
- a. Collective of parents and carers with children with additional needs
 - b. Experience of parents and carers and children can be very different to other families
 - c. By coming together want to do 2 things
 - i. Peer support for other parents and carers - share resources, support opportunities
 - 1. Hoping to come together once a month to provide support for each other - no judgement, no diagnoses required
 - ii. Working with the wider school community to raise awareness

1. Ensuring the dignity of children is front and centre - right to fit in and right to play
 2. Improve the experience of the children
- d. Quotes from children with ASN
- i. Everybody always tells me what I need to do to fit in, but I never hear what anyone else needs to do
 - ii. People tell me I'm not OK as I am
- e. Ask as a group is to come onboard with us with this journey and be curious to help support and value all children
- f. When you have a child with ASN you don't always know where to begin
- g. Curious to know what ASN training for staff looks like?
- h. Movement break room - curious to know what's going on there as some children need specific physical needs and movement
- i. Believe there's a trampoline that might be available for us but wondering where and how
- j. Sometimes language is used which parents can feel blamed for their child's needs - question around is how people talk to parents include that
- k. Mr Friend offered to meet with the ASN to discuss and they will contact him when they're ready to do so
11. Website update
- a. Place to have all the information that's useful for parents
 - b. Calendar of events and noticeboard is useful
 - c. List of current volunteering opportunities on there
 - d. Happy to take content or suggestions and make updates so please get in touch with Fergus
12. Mobile phone use in school
- a. Event happening at Portobello High School which all parents/carers are welcome to attend
 - b. Delay smartphone petition until their 14
 - i. Petition you can sign and find other parents in the community to share views/ideas
 - ii. Can be useful to discuss as a parent group before it becomes a thing
 - c. Phones not an issue in primary schools as taken away in the morning and returned at end of the day, but different in high school
 - d. Can we create dialogue and events around having discussions about this, as parents and with children
13. WhatsApp groups
- a. Could we add list of WhatsApp groups to the website in a manner that means no private data is shared to those that are not meant to be part of the group

Actions

- ☐ Poll children/parents/carers on what to spend the remaining playspace money on

- ☐ Katherine Collier to check in on outdoor library project
- ☐ Running the fairs - needs new people to oversee
- ☐ ASN group could meet with Mr Friend to discuss issues
- ☐ See if we can add WhatsApp group links to website