

Thursday 24th August 2023

PE

Currently, some children receive 2 hours per week of PE as stated by the Scottish Curriculum, however some children/classes are only receiving 1 hour. This will be changed ASAP so all children will receive what they should, Mrs Kerr is collecting in all teachers forward teaching plans within the next week. 2 hours PE is delivered by a specialist and class teacher (1 hour each).

Sanitary Products

These are available in Deans High and all P6's and P7's have been advised where these are and have access to these. Teachers also have supplies available in their classrooms.

Anytime, Anywhere Learning/Bring your own device to school

Children are allowed to bring their own devices into school but there will be a contract to sign to allow this along with some rules. Mrs Kerr has assured us there will be a push for improving KPS's digital learning curriculum and teaching children how to use their phones safely, but also that there are enough iPads, netbooks and laptops that children do not need to be using their mobile phones for learning this year.

RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood)

This was very briefly mentioned on the back of mobile phone safety that the younger the school teaches sex education, the more it increases awareness and safety on the topic.

Milk

Mrs Kerr is aware there are parents/carers who have paid for milk but their child/ren have not been receiving this. The reason for this is the milk order was only done for KPS and not for DPS or DCHS. We are assured P4-P7 will have milk as of today (24/08/23) and Mrs Kerr will look at how she can refund this cost to parents/carers, e.g., this could be offset against next term's cost.

Homework

Grids will be issued as per the school cluster and Mrs Kerr is keen for this to be done electronically, through the KPS website, Seesaw or TEAMS. However, paper copies can be issued if pupils do not have digital/online access at home or if they prefer.

Seesaw

This is a platform for learners in P1-P3 so that parents/carers can see what their child has been learning. There is also an option to post home learning on this. Letters will be issued by the end of this week with instructions on how to access. (Please note this platform is only to discuss learning, and any concerns outwith this should be dealt with as normal, by making an appointment with the office to speak to your child's teacher). The Early Years Centre are also switching to Seesaw, rather than the old Learners Journal platform.

TEAMS

Pupils in P4-7 will use TEAMS and they are taught how to use this in class and should have access to their passwords. If these are lost your child should speak to their teacher who can change this for them. Parents/carers should not have access to children's TEAMS passwords as this would then give them access to messaging groups and other children's data. TEAMS has lots of dyslexia friendly functions such

as an immersive reader which can read text aloud, and different background colours and fonts can be used.

Parents Portal

Concerns expressed at how difficult this is to access and issues logging in. This is being looked at, the school office is currently being run through Civic Centre due to Mrs Page's absence and admin support has also been offered from elsewhere.

Digital Workshop

Mrs Kerr is going to look at putting together a workshop for parents and carers if anyone is struggling to access/work Parents Portal or Seesaw. If anyone is having any issues before this workshop is arranged, please put a post on the Facebook page or message Lyndsay or Kelli (the admins) and we will try to help or find answers for you!

Uniform/Food Bank/Toy Appeal/Energy Bills

Please contact Mrs Marshall (the Family Link Worker for KPS) or any KPS staff member if you need any assistance with school uniform or food. You can also message the Knightsridge Community News Page on Facebook for assistance with energy bills or their toy appeal (also for uniform or food if you are more comfortable doing this).

Mosswood

Mrs Kerr is considering still using Mosswood as a venue for future events since it has proven so successful with the P1 transition meetings and P7 leavers party while our building was unavailable.

PSA

As explained previously, this is a separate entity to the Parent Council, but concerns were expressed that not many parents know who runs the PSA or how fundraising happens, and other parents might be keen to get involved. A few members of this committee have left recently due to their children moving on to high school so there may be a need for new members soon. PSA have their own bank account and Mrs Kerr is unaware what money they have right now. It was agreed that more communication re: PSA and fundraising needs to be shared with parents so we are hoping this happens in due course and parents are made aware of what events are coming up.

Ongoing Building Work

Contractors are still on schedule to complete the middle school BY December, Mrs Kerr is still unsure of an exact date, but she hopes P4 and P5 will be in by the end of November. Expected completion is still on track for March 2024.

SIP (School Improvement Plan)

This is a public document which details Mrs Kerr's plan to improve the school. There is a SIP for the Primary School and a Development Plan for the EYC. These have been written already and are being submitted to WLC tomorrow (25/08/23). Mrs Kerr is happy to work in conjunction with KPS Parent Council to write a parent-friendly version of this with less jargon, but her main foci this year are attendance, communication, and numeracy.

KPS works closely with the cluster (all primary schools that feed into DCHS) and numeracy will be a focus throughout the whole cluster. Once the SIP has been submitted, Mrs Kerr creates the school annual calendar with staff meetings, management steps, training sessions for teachers etc., to discuss how the

plan for improving the school will look. Mrs Kerr is very keen on parental involvement in the SIP but there will be more opportunity to do this for the 24/25 session.

PEF (Pupil Equity Fund)

PEF money is allocated directly to schools to help close the poverty related attainment gap. In 2022-2023, KPS were allocated £134,750 which is in the top 3 of highest amounts allocated within all the primary schools in West Lothian. For 23/24 West Lothian Council have been allocated almost £1.2M to distribute among all schools. The Parent Council are interested in being involved with how our PEF money is being spent and to offer suggestions on how this could be spent this year. We are hoping for more outdoor learning opportunities, more school trips, more DYW opportunities (Developing the Young Workforce) and more real-life context learning. Any other suggestions welcome!

More information on PEF and the school allocations can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/schools/pupil-attainment/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-equity-funding-school-allocations-2022-to-2023/>

HMIE (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education)

KPS's last inspection was in 2017. There are some schools who have gone 10 years without being inspected and Mrs Kerr will only get around 3-4 weeks' notice if the Education Board decides to inspect.

VSE (Validated Self Evaluation)

This is an inspection/observation at council level where Education officers and other Headteachers come for a walk round to observe learning and teaching. Mrs Kerr is under the impression this will happen soon, and she is keen for parents to be involved in this. More information will be shared in due course.

Primary 1-3 Play Time/Lunchtime

The school have decided to set up more structured play, following concerns around behavior and certain games they have been playing. The P1's have been allocated the courtyard which will be set up with activities, however they are still able to mix with the P2&3 if they so wish.

Head Lice

Following reports on head lice this term already, Mrs Kerr has advised she will raise this with the school nursing team and hopefully they can put something in place. A reminder will be sent out to all parents to continue to check their child's hair regularly and treat, however parents cannot be approached individually, and specific treatment advice cannot be given by the school because this is classed as medical.

Groupcall/Contact Details

Groupcall is the main method of communication with the school at the moment. Groupcalls can be sent via text or email, with email being the preferred choice as these are free and do not eat into the schools' budget like text messages do. It is parent/carers responsibility and vital that your contact details are up to date, there is an Annual Data Check form coming out soon but contact details can also be updated via Parents Portal throughout the year. Only parents, main carers and step-parents can be sent Groupcalls texts and emails. Mrs Kerr can see who has received and opened these to ensure everyone is receiving them.

Attendance

As mentioned, attendance is something that is within the School Improvement Plan and is becoming a concern to Mrs Kerr. Group calls regarding attendance are sent by text as these are most likely to receive a quick response but these cost the school money. If the texts are not responded to on time, the school will work through your child's emergency contact list to locate the pupil before the safe arrivals team or social policy are required to get involved. Please make sure to contact the school if your child is going to be late or absent.

KPS Website

School management are looking at utilising the KPS School website more and becoming our main form of communication (along with Groupcall). Mrs Kerr will ask Mr Potter if he can help provide a shared calendar on the website for main events such as Christmas Fayres, Halloween discos, and Parents evening etc. X (formerly Twitter) will only be used for sharing learning rather than communication. As per WLC policy, individual teachers are not allowed to post on their own X/Twitter accounts anymore to avoid incorrect posting of children's photos without permission. The education section of the Council does not allow Facebook pages (Our KPS Parents and Carers Facebook page is not affiliated with the school in any way and Admin will need to restrict/monitor what is posted on this due to safeguarding). The reason for the school app not being used anymore is the school were finding it difficult to keep track of.

Parent Council Members

A meeting will be held in the coming weeks with anyone interested in having a role within the Parent Council, we will draw up a constitution together with our aims, objectives and what we'd like to achieve with/for the school. Following this, an AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be arranged with Mrs Kerr to appoint the new Parent Council roles. This will consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair and a Secretary. There can be more than 1 person in each role, however each member must be elected into the role with at least 2 votes.

There will be a Microsoft Form questionnaire issued via the Facebook page soon to ask who would like a role within the PC. The more parents involved, the better!

Thanks 😊