



St Andrews Primary School | Parent Council Newsletter – Autumn 2020

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

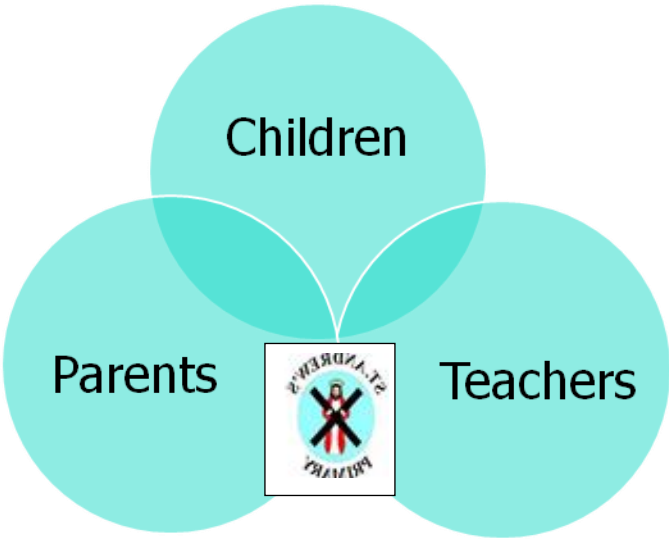
I am sure you will agree we have all gone through and still are going through an extremely challenging time. The coming months will continue to be challenging for the children and staff and as a parent council we will continue to support the school in whichever way we can.

As you know historically the parent council have met in the school every 6 weeks and have been involved in decision making around school policy, quality & governance, the curriculum, denominational review and fundraising. We will now meet virtually until Midlothian allows parents back in to the school. Everyone is welcome at the meetings, just email us and we will give you the link to join. Standrewsps_pc@yahoo.com

We held our AGM virtually on 29th September and were delighted that several new parents joined us

Meet the new Parent council team 20/21

- Chairperson: Helena Macleay
- Vice Chair and church rep: Clare Black
- Secretary: Kirsty Jackson
- Treasurer: Aga Biel
- Teacher rep: Miss Wilkinson
- Members: Audrey MacDonald, Katherine Malone, Isla Hunt, Billie Jo Sacco, Laura Kantam, Hannah Jones, Diane Nicholas, Kelly Drummond, Judith Nwaji



HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

We are a member of CONNECT, The national organisation for parents' groups in Scottish schools. This supports parents who want to get involved in their children's school by providing advice and information. (Formerly the Scottish Parent Teacher Council).

Other useful resources for parents:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/> - Scottish government with lots of good info

<https://www.bps.org.uk/coronavirus-resources/public/managing-uncertainty> this is a good link with info to help parent's manage anxiety with children

Connect have been supporting parent councils throughout the pandemic and we have managed to attend various information sessions and parent forums. Midlothian council have also provided information sessions for parent council chairs throughout the pandemic and are in the process of starting a Midlothian Parent council forum which we will also attend and disseminate information to you as it becomes available. For more info visit the site

<https://connect.scot/parent>



ENHANCING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY & FUNDRAISING

At our last meeting we spoke about ways in which we could still have a presence in the school and encourage a sense of community, perhaps through virtual quiz or bingo events? What do you think? Is this something you would be interested in? Email us and let us know your thoughts and other ideas?

Fundraising for the foreseeable future will be extremely challenging as we are all very aware of the financial impact of COVID on families and therefore we need to think carefully about our priorities this year.



Our 20/21Goals

- To promote a family friendly ethos in School.
- To promote partnership with the school in educating our children
 - Work with School to develop School policies
 - To strengthen and grow the School Community.



Halloween and Christmas



As you know we have always run Halloween parties and Christmas fairs. Unfortunately this will not happen this year, however we are planning to give the children a goodie bag with halloween treats and activities to do together with their families at home. We would also like to have a pumpkin carving competition, where we will offer one prize per class, including the nursery, for the best pumpkins (You can use turnips, tin cans anything lying around) Please email a photo of your pumpkins to the parent council email by the 1st November and we will ask an independent person to judge them.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 3rd November we will be sharing ideas around how we can provide the children with some Christmas treats, so if you have any ideas we would love to hear them!

Minutes of Parent council meetings can be accessed from the Parent council tab on the school website.

Special thanks to Mrs Nicola Laing who stepped down from the parent council this year after many years and Audrey MacDonald who has done a brilliant job as treasurer also for many years!

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Website:
<https://standrews.mgfl.net/>



Email:
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Next Parent council meeting is Tuesday 3rd November 6.30pm via zoom