

St. Andrew's Primary School

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 3rd November

In attendance: Helena MacLeay, Clare Black, Diane Nicholas, Isla Hunt, Kirsty Jackson, Billy-Jo Sacco, Katherine Malone, Kelly Drummond, Joanne Hunter

Apologies: Hannah Jones, Aga Biel, Audrey MacDonald, Jess Wilkinson

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes agreed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Chairperson's report

Thanks to Nikki Laing who has now stepped down for all her help and support in the council & thanks to the team for helping with Halloween/.

P4 carried out their communion and Helena has stayed in touch with the school to support and provide a gift.

Pumpkin contest – Suggested a prize for all entrants. 11 kids entered over the school and suggest giving all a gift for participating – Action HK to provide gift to Joanne for Friday.

Headteacher's report

Joanne thanked the Parent Council for their support and advised some parents have commented on the newsletter.

Health & safety

Tier 3 guidance – many measures are now in place but new guidance for parents/carers to wear a mask during pick up and drop off. A reminder will be going to parents on one way system for those parents that go into the school as a gentle reminder however on the whole it's been really positive.

Indoor PE now allowed in the gym hall. Cleaning must be carried out between cohorts and kids should still come to school in PE kit during allocated days to maximise use of outdoors – extra measures still in place i.e not to mix use of equipment, a rota of staff for equipment to minimise sharing on same days. Splitting the gym hall by class for am/pm so **ventilation and** cleaning can happen over lunch. Still want to utilise outdoor space and classes can use gym for other activities or classwork during their allotted time.

Still unable to use the gym for lunch and trialling of **hot snack option in school packed lunches** has started. Awaiting guidance on further free school meals for P4-P7 and how to manage going forward if allowed hot meals to reduce mixing of cohorts but further guidance will be issued in due course.

Flu vaccine programme has been completed and worked really well with vaccines carried out within the classes. Seemed to go much quicker and the uptake was around the usual level.

Denominational schools review

Further meetings will be carried out this month with Fiona Robertson, Joanne attended a meeting last week and further communication will be issued following parent council meetings.

Sacraments

Mrs Wiseman, Miss Valentine and Joanne attended, was really nice with families (quiet) but special and followed this up with a special celebration in school on the Monday with scrolls and cupcakes.

Miss Stewart is starting reconciliation preparation for P3 to take place before December. A Priest risk Assessment has been completed and the Priest will come to school to carry this out. New workbooks have now been received and Parents letter going out next week.

Confirmation preparation – happening in January workbooks have now been received

Chrome books

Chrome books are now up and running.

Playground

Playground can be water logged due to weather. We can continue to use Muga but looking at other alternatives and support. Need to consider support for caretaker over the winter months as due to the large area it cannot be gritted by one person and will present a risk during colder days.

Staggered start times should continue and single access etc all remaining.

Parent consultations

Parent consultation letters have gone out. Discussed how other schools use a booking system and we would look at this in future if current ways of working continue. Unfortunately **phone consultations** mean we cannot share work that parents would usually see on a school visit but teachers will **all make notes of key areas to** discuss with parents.

School App – is this something we would like? Would we get more parent interaction with this with the use of smart phones? Joanne advised some teachers have experience with their own children and use of app being positive and could parent council support the cost of this. This would provide an ease of use for parents and better use of funds. A meeting is taking place later in week to discuss packages with a supplier and Joanne sending out to parents for feedback. Possibility to use for forms etc.

Discussed school website and if this could be redone as well – There is an action with Suzanne to go through with IT to advise what can be removed and would be done in tandem with app.

A letter will go out to parents on their preferred method of communication, feedback on website and so we build together for improvement.

Treasurer's report

Balance £2,500 following Halloween, Christmas and chrome books

Parish rep

Feeling disconnected at the moment due to Mass restrictions and condensed services. Should we be doing more like Advent videos? School is doing advent videos with craft but putting on school tree.
– Clare to contact Marie re Facebook

Supporting families over Christmas period

Elaine **Baur** and Joanne are going through initiatives for applications (Cash for Kids, Gorebridge Communities' Care that are doing fuel/food cards etc). Joanne will share output with Elaine once completed.

Midlothian running coat swap scheme there was previously high engagement with Suzanne. Diane advised Gorebridge Parish Church is running 2nd hand clothes sale on a Tuesday 9-11.30 – donations are welcome and can be brought along at that time.

Fundraising

Giving machine – reminder to send out to parents about this

Christmas Gifts – Books agreed and purchased following the list provided by Jess on appropriate gender neutral/age books for each child.

P7 Hoodies

P7 hoodies have now been measured and ready to order. Transition is ongoing. Pupils have now had packs from St David's HS and more information to follow. Meeting being held at the end of the month. Higher use of Google Classroom/Teams and how to arrange events more virtually.

AOB

Diane – Now there is access to hall for PE is there a timeframe for restarting events – singing etc. Joanne advised they update following guidance from Scottish Government such as music instructors – can't play instruments in school, perform at home, upload to google classroom and teacher assesses from there and providing feedback and talking through. Really missing singing and PE which is joyful. Hoping nativity will continue using signing rather than singing.

Newsletter – Winter newsletter to be sent out at the beginning of December - Action – Billie-Jo help from Kelly

The P7s are preparing their house captain speeches. They would normally present to everyone in their house. But this year they will be recorded doing their presentation and this will be shown to the other kids in their classroom using the white boards. (This happened back in October – maybe from a previous minute?)

Next meeting: Tuesday 15 December, 6.30pm.