**Crossmichael Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday 8th March 2021 7pm via Zoom**

1. **Attendees**:Mary Lidstone-Scott (Head Teacher), Gilli Hodson (Chair), Ben Wild (Vice Chair), Shani McMiken (Treasurer), Debs Nelson (Secretary), Kim Glover, Charlene Saunderson, Sarah Cooper, Heidi Gunther, Jackie & Derek Kernahan, Hannah Green
2. **Apologies**:Zara Gell, Emma McCracken, Lucy Wilson
3. **Minutes of last meeting**: From 16th November 2020 meeting.
   1. **Agreed as correct**. Proposed – Sarah Cooper, Seconded – Ben Wild.
   2. **Matters Arising**
      1. **Outdoor Learning Shelter –** Thanks go to Shani for applying to Crossmichael Community Council for £500, this has been successful,and will be used for the path development. Some tiles blew off in the recent storm but Iain kindly came and replaced them, and treated a small amount of mould/mildew in the inside and will return to monitor. Path progress is ongoing.
      2. **Wifi** - within Portacabin now.
      3. **Paying for school lunches – electronically** – ongoing, no progress to report
      4. **Parton Photo Competition –** Erin Wilson won the junior section and other children from the school took part and were shortlisted. Well done to all involved and there will be a display in Parton once materials have arrived.
      5. **School Meals meeting at another primary –** we did not attend but the outcome was positive in that the council agreed to no longer use powdered milk in cooking. Work is ongoing to prepare a paper to lobby the council to improve the procurement process and to use more local produce. Brian Whittle MSP is offering support and he has been instrumental in working with the council in Ayrshire, where 76% of their school dinners are procured locally, where ours are approximately 17%. Parents from Crossmichael are very welcome to join the group.
      6. **Safer Routes to School –** this was omitted at the meeting but long email correspondence has been received from Tony Topping from the council but remains inconclusive. Further contact will be reported at future meetings.
4. **Milk**: Raised by a parent based on their childs experiences before this latest lockdown. It was felt that milk was too warm and not enjoyed as much as if it was chilled. Practice has changed in terms of how soon milk is delivered to classrooms so now should not be an issue**.**
5. **Chairpersons Report –** Thanks for coming. No meeting since before Christmas and thanks to everyone for all their efforts in the lead up – organising the Panto streaming, Georgie in the office, teachers for organising snacks, parents for donating to the food back and Debs for taking these from school to the village shop, all those involved in distribution, thanks to you too. Wilma and any staff involved in the Christmas lunch and Zara and PC for organising crackers and to Zara for wrapping and delivering the gifts to school. Thanks too to Shani, Sarah, and Kim for organising the tea-towels – hopefully, that’s everyone, but if not, Thank you!

**Remote learning –** Thanks to everyone for all their efforts and the Teams meetings and all the organisation by the Teachers who have all made it so accessible and easier than the last time.

**Updates from Vanessa Morris** Council officer for parental engagement – updates circulated if required but we often know about issues ahead of her emails via our blog etc. Anyone who wants to receive/see the updates, contact Gilli. Alistair Young Quality Improvement Manager with Dumfries and Galloway’s Education Learning Directorate was guest speaker at D&G Parent Council Forum on 23rd February, which we were unable to attend but a summary and complete transcript of what he said is available in the minutes. If anyon is interested in reading this Gilli can forward the minutes to you. There is a meeting on 18th March of the Education and Learning Committee, including a Transformation Update (that began being discussed in 2019 and is item 10 on the agenda.) It is possible to watch a livestream of this meeting but the attendees are already agreed. The information was in Vanessa Morris’s update and this is what she wrote -

A paper is going to the Education and Learning Committee on the 18th of March 2021 will provide an update on the progress of Education and Learning on the Transformation theme on school models, as agreed by Education and Learning Committee on 3 November 2020. This was that the review of primary school partnership arrangements was progressed.  The links to the papers can be found here: [Agenda for Education and Learning Committee on Thursday, 18th March, 2021, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)](https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=549&MId=5159&Ver=4) Agenda item 10.

1. **Treasurers Report**

Opening Balance – £12091.30

Income - £250 TeaTowels (in addition to last meeting income from this fundraiser)

Expenditure - £416.40 TeaTowels, £9744.40 Joiner Outdoor Shelter, £41.95 Thankyou Gift for Iain Hall, £105.50 Crackers and Christmas gifts, £87.50 online Panto, £85.34 Panto Snacks and ice-cream, £63.00 P1/2 Christmas Party, TOTAL - £10,544.00

Closing Balance - £1797.21

TeaTowel Profit overall - £548.60 – Thanks everyone, a great total in difficult times.

1. **Headteachers Report**
   1. Thanks to everyone mentioned re Christmas help, donations, work
   2. Crossmichael School Roll - 4 new, taking our total to 91, just had contact about another 2,

In August 9 P7 Leavers, 5 catchment P1s – taking our total to 89 - Gelston, 43, 1 more after Easter and remain at 43 in August, great news for our partnership.

* 1. Thank you to everyone for their support during lockdown, parents have kept in touch, children have done so well, they’ve been amazing, and the video calls have made a massive difference. Each school had a hub, staffed by support and ricct staff, with one leadership role also. Engagement with the learning has been really good, and in addition to the 8 Drax loaned laptops, Scottish Government have provided P5-7 pupils with Free School Meal Entitlement (FME) with a laptop to keep.
  2. Health and Well-being questionnaires – feedback was positive, communication great - blog and fb pages being used well, email, phone, so any issues have been sorted quickly and thank you for positive emails and photos of learning from home, baking, outdoor activities, as well as online/written learning. Learning grids have been varied with lots of differentiated activities.
  3. P1-3s - it has been great to have them back, the hub transferred to Crossmichael for P4-7 pupils and great friendships are forming. Hoping all pupils will be back on Monday. Arrangements will be as before - split playground, staggered playtimes, safety measures as before re sanitiser, separate doors etc, with the added reassurance of testing for teachers twice a week. We all want the children to be settled and ready to learn, in school, but so far the groups that have returned have settled well and are really happy to see each other.
  4. In February, teachers provided predicted results on P1, P4 and P7’s achievement of a curricular level data based on existing assessment evidence.

Our strengths are:

* + - Most of our P1 pupils are on track to achieve Early level in Numeracy, Reading, Writing and Listening & Talking.
    - Most of our P4 pupils are on track to achieve First Level in L&T and Reading.
    - Most of our P7 pupils are on track to achieve Second Level in L&T.

Our next steps are:

* More than half of our P4s are set to achieve expected levels in numeracy and writing but we must support the others through targeted interventions between now and summer.
* Although more than half of our P7s are on track to achieve expected levels in Numeracy, Reading and Writing, we will be targeting them in Term 4.
  1. A quarter of our 91 pupils have some additional support for learning needs, with assistant and teaching staff input and planning.
  2. Online Transitions – for P7 – S1. Mrs Cook has put on gateway information onto teams but please send any questions via email or teams.
  3. ICT – better broadband is coming soon, update to Windows 10, plans to allow devices from home, Council replacing existing machines, but only an additional 8 working laptops. Kind donations of tablets during lockdown, being used in hub and portacabin. Ann Harkness, support service manager has advised and if we can apply for grants to buy devices they can be configured centrally, not individually, making this process more straightforward.
  4. Finances – School has three sources of funding – Devolved School Management budget (DSM), Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and our School Fund. It is the end of the financial year and our finances are unhealthy. Our DSM is allocated based on our school roll and other factors. It is used to buy basic resources that must be purchased through the Council’s procurement service. We are significantly overdrawn. We have no money left in our school fund. We will fundraise when it is appropriate to do so but we are aware that many families have felt the financial impact of Covid-19 so we are choosing to wait for now. We will need to apply for grants to buy resources. Our PEF budget is used to close the poverty related attainment gap and most of this money has paid for Learning Assistants to deliver targeted interventions – Closing the Literacy Gap and nurture.

1. **Fundraising – ideas?**

Hopefully, we will know by the next meeting as to when an event may be feasible, so fundraising to be on hold for now.

1. **P7s**
   1. Children attending hub recently are keen for leavers hoodies and want to wear them in Term 4. Kim has done some research and is happy to lead on this for the P7 Parent Group who will organise this via their group messages and parents will pay for these.
   2. P7 Parent Group to organise what happens for ‘Leavers’ event/s at the end of the year, via their group messages.
   3. Gifts – discussion around previous years gifts. Agreed that Parent Council will purchase new school Ties and School will organise a year book/photo printing/scrapbook from school archives of photos and those taken this year.
   4. Mary will look into Young Scot cards – have we had forms and have we sent them in?!
   5. Transition days (16-18th June) – CDHS already stated these will be online, but unclear where the children need to be on those days – home/in primary school – Mary will look into this and report back
   6. Outdoor events – as the trip to Lockerbie Manor was not possible last year or this year suggestion of a P6/7 trip to a local outdoor facility might be possible. It is too early to tell what restrictions will be like in Term 4 but to bear this in mind. Sports day- children should be able to take part, but parents/family/friends attendance less likely. Too early to tell but hopefully the children should enjoy this annual event this year, subject to government/council guidance.
2. **AOB** –
   1. **World Book Day Vouchers** - Arrived today so will be distributed asap. No expiry date on them and can be spent digitally.
   2. **AGM is coming up in May** Office Bearers posts will be coming vacant so please speak with Gilli if you feel able to take on a role. The idea of a ‘rolling’ chair was suggested also.
3. **Date of Next Meeting - 2021. AGM 10th May 2021 – 7pm on Zoom.**