**Crossmichael Parent Council Meeting Agenda**

**Monday 13th September 2021 at 7pm on Zoom**

1. Attendees

Mary Cruickshanks ( Head Teacher), Ben Wild (Chair), Sarah Cooper (Secretary), Natalie Richards(Vice Chair), Shani McMiken (Treasurer), Zara Gell, Gavin and Hannah Green, Debs Nelson, Derek and Jackie Kernahan.

2. Apologies

Amber Dunlop-Pajo, Suzie and Ryan King

3. Minutes of Last Meeting: approval and matters arising

Approved by Shani and seconded by Sarah

4. Chairperson’s report

a. Vanessa Morris? Emailed re training available for parent councils. Lots of courses including Respect ME, Money Matters, Intro to Equality and Equity Toolkit, Social and Fundraising Events, Social Media for Parent Groups. Contact for further information.

b. D&G council doing survey on music service encouraged to fill this in.

c. Connect is new programme that council have invested in to assist Parent Councils which includes public liability insurance as well as ways to communicate.

5. Treasurer’s report

Opening balance: £1792.21,

Income: nil,

Expenditure: £48 for school ties for P7’s leaving,

Closing balance £1749.21.

End of year financial statement for council not done as did not get funds from council last year so have gone back to council to look into it.

The small grant (£500) from Crossmichael Community Council for the path from outdoor classroom to woodland has not yet been received and Shani is chasing this up. However we have not yet had the invoice for path.

6. Head Teacher’s report

a. Covid: school shut for few days in second week due to lack of staff not Covid outbreak, but since then attendance figures have been good. New school guidance has been circulated outlining how Covid cases are manged in school and this is working well. 2 staff tested positive and 15-20 children but this was similar to cases in the community and not an outbreak in school. Told by Scottish government not to relax any rules and will keep this up till October holidays then seek guidance after that.

b. School role 96 pupils XM (capacity 100) 40 Gelston. 8 Primary 1 started XM. Quite a few children out with catchment seeking placement.

c. Partnership management arrangements discussed to look for equity across the

region. Roll of each school should not exceed 100 and should be removed from partnership if exceeds this consistently. Headteachers should be non teaching. More information on education committee papers online. 61 Primary head teachers currently this would increase to 65 if guidance followed. Education and Learning committee will meet again in September and will update after this.

d. Everyone in school would like to thank Mr Hall for the lovely path and the “Fairy Gate” to allow direct access into community woodland, as well as fixing the roof of outdoor classroom and reinforcing doors. This now has a keycode access lock so other groups can use it.

e. P4-7 visiting Viking camp at XM Marina this week for 1 hour with demonstrations of different aspects of Viking life and will visit the heritage centre also.

f. Online tuition for music has started at school and it is nice to hear music again in school.

g. House and vice captions being chosen this week and in addition all children in P6/7 will be given a responsibility in school this year.

h. Active schools in touch with school looking at lunch clubs and potentially after school .

i. ICT: XM and Gelston chosen for pilot schools to trial new infrastructure. Virtual desktop and bring your own device being trialled. Working well so far in terms of speed but few glitches along the way.

Ben asked about residential trips but Mary felt unsure about asking for deposits with Covid restrictions unknown at this time. Shani shared that the residential was something kids really looked forward too and was a real privilege to get the opportunity to do as well as meeting children from other schools before transition to secondary. It would be a shame to not have this again for this years children. Debs asked if there would be any D&G wide guidance as it would be difficult if some schools went and others didn’t. Parents felt if at all possible it would be good to go, could we go back to Lockerbie Manor and ask to hold off on paying deposit, Mary agreed to do this and feedback.

7. Fundraising

a. Mary would like a Christmas BBQ, using outdoor shelter. Thoughts were that after

October parents may be able to come into playground. Outdoor shelter has not officially been opened as yet. Perhaps beginning of December would be appropriate. To be discussed at next meeting to make date and plan.

b. Jackie discussed should we do something similar to tea towels like last year as this raised much money – Sarah asked if could be different this year e.g. cards or mugs, Ben seconded the Christmas cards – Zara happy to look at this – try “All my own work” company, Ben will check what company KBT school used.

c. Debs raised that word scramble also raised good money last year at Halloween. Sarah agreed to do this again.

8. Equipment - Outdoor Learning Shelter

Mary said thank you for money for white board for shelter which has not been bought yet but also wondered about getting small cabinet to keep resources outside also. Parent council agreed to donate some money towards this if Mary priced this.

9. AOB

a. Zara enquired about homework being done on Teams. The practicality of this is difficult in home setting due to Wifi, devices, time to set up and work with child.

Mary advised this was not a school wide discussion but will have come from individual class teachers. Also perhaps due to Covid absences some work could be on teams so they can access it. Will talk as a school about this.

b. Jackie asked about Halloween activities in school Mary advised not thought that far ahead but that thought they would do parties like last year as this was really enjoyed by the children. Parent council may contribute prizes or sweeties for this.

10. Date of next meeting

Monday 1st November 7pm Zoom.