**Crossmichael Primary School Parent Council (PC)**

**Minutes - Monday 16th January 2023 at 7pm at Crossmichael Primary School**

Minutes taken by Larissa Wheeler

1. **Apologies** – Natalie Richards, Emma McCracken, Derek Kernahan, Suzy King, Marcella Eaking-Watt, Zara Gell.
2. **Attendees** – Ben Wild (Chair), Lucy Wilson (Treasurer), Larissa Wheeler (Secretary), Mary Cruickshanks (Headteacher), Jackie Kernahan, Shani McMiken, Steph Holdsworth.
3. **Approval of minutes of last meeting** – Ben proposed the minutes, seconded by Larissa. They were accepted as an accurate record of the last meeting.
4. **Chairperson’s Report** – Nothing significant to report, see below for specific agenda items. General positive feedback regarding the Pantomime and the Christmas show.
5. **Head Teachers Report:**

**Update since 07.11.2022**

We had a great run up to Christmas culminating in our performance of the school show in the last week of term. There was a fantastic atmosphere and it was lovely to see our families and the local community in the audience.

Pupils also attended Christmas parties and enjoyed our School Christmas Dinner. I would like to thank the Parent Council for paying for the pantomime at the Fullarton Theatre. We had a wonderful time!

**Staffing**

Learning Assistant, Emma Cowan has started a job elsewhere. We are grateful for her input at Crossmichael and we wish her well in her new post. This means that we have a vacancy of 4 days (22hrs) at Crossmichael. This post will be advertised on a permanent basis in the next few days.

**Vandalism**

Unfortunately, our outdoor classroom was vandalised during the Christmas holidays. The door was forced open causing damage to a wooden panel and one of the Perspex windows was broken. We reported this to the Police who have logged the incident. Neighbours of our school have reported seeing teenagers playing in the grounds and being near the outdoor classroom at the time.

Unfortunately, our CCTV footage does not cover the distance up to this area but we have identified two young people who were in the vicinity at the time of the incident. Police have contacted the families.

The outdoor classroom has been broken into several times since April 2022 and we have had to pay for minor repairs. Our Community Police Officer has been keeping an eye on the area since then. We will be reporting all damage from now on.

**An update on the cost of ‘First News’ Subscription**

We would like to thank the Parent Council for agreeing to pay for 6 newspapers and activity sheet access at a cost of £579 divided between our school and Gelston. Our older pupils are using the resource every week and it is supporting their learning.

**School Improvement Priorities**

Raising attainment in writing – So far, we have reflected upon research about how to improve childrens’ writing, we have evaluated the teaching of writing in our schools and teachers have made small changes to their practice to help improve learning. At weekly assemblies, we focus on improvements in writing and celebrate success with the children.

We will be looking at samples of pupils’ writing and discussing the standard of writing and identifying best practice. The senior leadership team will be completing observations of writing lessons as part of our quality assurance measures. We also hope to complete moderation of writing to ensure that our achievement of a curricular level data is robust.

Improving Health and Wellbeing through Nurture - Last year, Barnardos did a block of work with individual pupils to support their mental health. This year, we have decided to target small groups of children within each class to work on building resilience and regulating emotions. We are calling these groups ‘nurture groups’. Teachers will complete an initial assessment of social, emotional and behavioural strengths and difficulties for each child called a Boxall Profile. The children will then attend a 30-40min lesson each week for 6 weeks led by their class teacher. (The Additional Support for Learning Teacher will cover the class.) At the end of the intervention, the teacher will complete another Boxall Profile to measure the impact. If this is successful then we will roll this out with all pupils in classes. This is part of our everyday practice and does not require parental permission. It should give individuals a wee ‘boost’ when they need it.

**This Term**

I have included details in our monthly newsletter. I have summarised these below:

* **Tuesday 24th January** - P6s and P7s to attend a 'Wellbeing in Winter' session at the Galloway Activity Centre including archery, climbing and rafting (weather dependent).
* **Friday 27th January at 6.30pm** - Crossmichael Primary School's Scottish Night (details to follow)
* **Monday 30th January** - 'Jig and Reels' Day of Dance at Dalbeattie Learning Campus. Partnership team from P4-7 attending.
* **Friday 3rd February at 6.30pm** - Gelston Primary School's 'Haggis Drive' in the Village Hall
* **15th February and 19th April -** P4s - P7s having French input from CDHS Teacher, Miss Giner.
* **Wednesday 1st or Thursday 2nd February (TBC) -** P6 pupils to attend a Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET) day at Wallets Mart in Castle Douglas where they will learn about food, farming and the countryside.
* **Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th February** - Schools closed to pupils (Staff training on Wednesday and Thursday)
* **w/c 13th March** - Scottish Opera for P5-7 pupils. Title is 'The Curse of MacCabbra Opera House'.
* **Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th March** - Parents Evenings. (Please note that Crossmichael will have appointments available from 15:30-17:30 on 14th and from 18:00-20:00 on 15th. Gelston will have appointments from 18:00-20:00 on 14th and 15:30-17:30 on 15th.)
* **Thursdays in March until June** - Gelston P4s, P5s and P6s participating in Feis Rois musical activity.
* **w/c 27th March** Easter Services in each school. (Dates and times to be confirmed soon.)

1. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nothing significant to report on the account.

Balance as at 21st December was £1,717.28.

Expenses incurred were:-

£768.00 for the school panto trip at Christmas,

£98.00 to me, for reimbursement for the Halloween goodies, and

£156.00 for ice-creams whilst at the panto.

1. **Fundraising**  - Some ideas were discussed regarding future fundraising ideas; Easter colouring competition, BBQ in the summer term. Mostly, the upcoming Scottish night was discussed. There was a focus on how to make sure it made money that couls be used on future trips and school resources. Activities will include a haggis drive, songs from the children, hundred square and raffle. There will be a tuck shop/snack bar as well as tea and coffee that can be purchased. BYOB for those that want to have a drink. It was decided to have donations rather than tickets. Jobs were delegated between those present at the meeting. Parents will be asked if they can volunteer on the night and also donate raffle prizes. Mary will get confirmation on whether or not food can made at home and brought onto the premises.
2. **Uniforms –** Lucy raised the question of uniforms - What is the latest on school uniforms in the school? Mary asked for our opinions. Through discussion, it was decided to continue with the policy that the children can come into school with their PE stuff on but, ideally, with a school jumper over it.
3. **Agenda items carried forward to next meeting:**

* Black Craig’s fundraising opportunities.
* P7 Leaver’s hoodies.

1. **AOBs** – Shani on behalf of Emma McCracken – Where are we at with parental volunteers to help with reading in the school? Mary will chase this up and report back. Lucy on behalf of Zara – it’s great to be using the hall but we need to consider the cost of it, can we get it for a cheaper price since we hope to use if for community inclusive events? Mary will follow this up.
2. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 6th March 2023, 7pm.