

Palnackie Parent Council Meeting Wednesday 20th September 2023

Present: Emma Ross (Chair), Victoria Baird (Treasurer/Secretary), Amy Ross, Michael Currie, Mirjam, Mrs Graham and Mrs Jarvis (Head Teacher)

Apologies: Lorna, Nadia, Amy and Liz

Minutes from last meeting

Parent Council are still looking for someone to take on the role of Secretary.

Action: Emma will ask parents on the group chat if anyone is interested.

Head Teachers Report

Mrs Jarvis reported that the school roll is now 12 pupils and that Palnackie welcomed three Primary 1's and a Primary 7.

The teachers present are Mrs Jarvis, Mrs Graham and Janet Burns who covers a Friday. Mrs Bell is still at Palnackie two days a week for learning support along with Mrs Tulloch who started in August.

Mrs Jarvis and Emma attended Palnackie Community Council with the hope that the council could help raise awareness of the school with any local families. The Community Council kindly offered its support to the school where possible. It has been decided that it would be best for the school if the Palnackie Tots were relaunched enabling young children to come together and meet within the village.

Fundraising was briefly mentioned. Auchencairn school use Easy Fundraising website where if you shop online, you can get cash back to help boost parent council funds and that it may be worthwhile for Palnackie to look into this. It was also mentioned about parent council helping towards funding some of the Lockerbie Manor trip.

Mrs Jarvis has applied to sit her minibus test to allow her to transport pupils in the community bus. Although her licence allows her to drive one already, she must sit the test in Dumfries and Galloway. Mrs Bell currently holds a minibus licence which will help with school links and cut down on the transport costs.

Concerns had been raised with the use of Facebook for communicating with parents. Mrs Graham is looking to use the website as currently there is no useful/up to date information for anyone that wants to find out about Palnackie School. Mrs Jarvis confirmed that information was sparse when she was researching the post of Head Teacher. Mrs Graham would be planning on allowing the older pupils to help upload school progress on the school blog to help with their digital skills. The school handbook is also on Mrs Jarvis's to do list to update as it is currently out of date.

There has been talks with Auchencairn about a possible joint Christmas concert.

Mrs Jarvis has met the Head Teacher of Dalbeattie High School and have discussed transition for the P7's and will touch base again in the new year. It is hoped that the Sports Leaders will be able to facilitate P7's once a week for PE at the High School starting in November.

Chair Report

It has been yet another busy school year with a full range of activities undertaken including:

- Christmas Fayre, Palnackie
- Christmas Fayre, Kirkgunzeon
- Bingo/quiz at Flounders.
- Coffee morning

On behalf of the Parent Council, I would like to thank the whole school for all that they do to lead and manage our wonderful school. Biggest thanks go to the teachers and support staff who work extremely hard to give our children more than could be written down in a job description.

Thank you to Victoria Baird our loyal Secretary who has reported all our discussions throughout the year and ensured we have kept things in order. We also have Victoria to thank for her role as Treasurer. A special thanks goes to Michael Currie in his role as Vice Chair, thank you for all your continued support. The parent council is again very grateful for the greatest support and collaboration from our Head Teachers last year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Alexander and Mrs Stores well and welcome Mrs Jarvis as our new Head Teacher. We look forward to the upcoming academic year working alongside her and have no doubt that she will do an amazing job. We would also like to wish Mr Wild all the best in his new job and hopefully the children will still see him in Auchencairn. Mrs Brown has finally retired after seeing her return a few times, we wish her a happy retirement.

Treasurers report

A lot of the money spent last year from parent council funds was on transport costs for together time. Monies raised and spent were as follows:

£122.55 was raised at the Christmas Fayre

£122.00 was raised at the coffee morning this was then transferred to the school fund to help towards school trip.

£130.15 was donated to school to help with Samye Ling trip.

Total amount in Parent Council is currently £190.77.

Action: Mrs Graham to look at school funds and confirm if the £122 was used towards Samye Ling Centre or if it is still in the school funds.

Election of Office Bearers

Chair – Michael Currie

Vice Chair – Emma Ross

Treasurer – Victoria Baird

Secretary – to be confirmed.

AOCB

Possible Grant

Mrs Graham advised that there was an opportunity to apply for £2500 to use towards educational play equipment and creative and cooperative play. Rosie Smith has applied for regional funds which

means there is a pot of money that can be distributed and if the school is successful in getting the money, then they would also receive an extra £500.

Action: Mrs Graham to keep school updated on progress

Together Time

Both Palnackie and Auchencairn welcome together time. Mrs Graham advised that the challenge is in the planning, but Mrs Graham and Mrs Jarvis are in talks with having the schools come together. All staff from both schools met in the inset days and plan to meet again to talk about joint school values as it is a new partnership. It was agreed that they would try and make it fair and have Auchencairn visiting Palnackie as well as Palnackie visiting Auchencairn. There are ongoing discussions about doing a block of outdoor learning next year.

Residential Trip

The residential trip to Lockerbie Manor will consist of Auchencairn pupils P5, 6 & 7, Kirkgunzeon, Colvend and Palnackie. Talks about making the trip every two years. It was also discussed about whether the younger children could have a day out at Ernespie or Mabie Farm Park when the older children are away.

Fundraising

It was felt that the parent council funds needed a boost, and we talked about various ideas. It was confirmed that Parent Council would host a Soup & Sweet at Palnackie Village Hall.

It was discussed that if we hold it in November, we could ask locals if they wanted a table to sell their Christmas crafts. It would be £10 per table.

Date agreed Saturday 18th November 2023 12pm – 3pm if hall is available.

Children will also have a craft table and school will look out their stock of cups and they could make hot chocolate packs to sell along with bookmarks and gift tags etc. Will need volunteers to make soups and sweets and children can help serve, sell on the stall and a possible raffle. This would allow the school to fundraise before all Christmas Craft Fayres start.

Action: Emma to check if hall is available and promote event with posters and Facebook post. Emma will also find out when the Palnackie Christmas light switch on will be.

Mrs Graham to look out any school mugs that could be used to sell.

13th October

Mrs Jarvis would like pupils to come dressed in pink to support Breast Cancer awareness and bring a small donation. Bev from Auchencairn has offered to make pink fairy cakes for both schools for the day.

School Photographs

Parents were asking if there would be school photographs this year and if so when.

Action: Mrs Graham to ask Sarah if there have been any emails received regarding this.

Outdoor Learning

Some parents asking if the school were still doing outdoor learning as previously this used to be every Friday. Mrs Jarvis explained that the school are very keen to incorporate outdoor learning with aspects of the curriculum for example when learning sciences, geography etc as at some point she will have to justify the learning based on the curriculum. It is ongoing but will not be restricted to one day as during the week there may be multiple opportunities for children to be outside learning if weather permits.

Leavers Hoodies

Mrs Graham was keen for the hoodies to be ordered this side of Christmas so that the P7's could wear their leaver hoodies throughout the academic year. It was agreed that the P7's should be able to choose their own colour of hoodies.

Action: Mrs Graham to enquire about where to order hoodies from and prices.

Date of next meeting: Palnackie School Monday 13TH November 2023 at 6pm.