**Portpatrick Primary School 2023 - 2024**

**Eco Committee Minutes– 14/11/23**

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| Primary | Portpatrick Members |
| P1 | George |
| P3 | Josh |
| P3 | Ella |
| P4 | Adam |
| P5 | Rebecca |
| P6 | Lacey |
| P7 | Lewis (House Captain – Portree) |
| Staff | Ms.Whorlow |

1. **Welcome -** Ms. Whorlow welcomed our committee to our Term 2 meeting.
2. **Previous Actions –** Everyone agreed that all actions from the last minutes have been closed off. Ms. Whorlow thanked the committee for completing these.

**Litter & Waste**

1. **Litter Survey** – Ms. Whorlow felt it was time to carry out a litter survey to see if there has been improvement in the amount of litter being found in the grounds. Lacey, Josh and George kindly volunteered to do this today.

Action – Lacey, Josh and George to conduct a litter survey of our school grounds

1. **Litter Pick** – The children discussed how the recent storm had caused the out6door paper recycling bin lid to open, spreading litter around our grounds. Everyone had helped gather up the litter and secured it in the bin, making the school look spick and span again. We looked at the rota for this week and this week it is the turn of Scott, Carter, Louise, Harry, Zak, Lacey and Rebecca to carry out another litter pick. Lacey and Rebecca offered to organise today’s litter pick.

Action: Lacey and Rebecca to lead a litter pick for this week

1. **Soft Plastics –** The committee have noticed that most of the litter in our school grounds are wrappers and crisp packets. We had already discussed it being a good idea to collect these for recycling. A collection bin has already been set up in the rear cloakroom, but it needs a replacement sign to bring it to children’s attention so they use it. Ella and Rebecca volunteered to create a new sign and share its use with the school community. We will recycle the soft plastic at the supermarket as and when there is enough to take in.

Action – Lacey and Rebecca to create a soft plastics bin sign

1. **Paper Recycling –** Our Recycling Racoons for this term will collect the waste paper bins and take them out to our outdoor paper pin this week.

Action – Lacey, Adam and Freya to empty the paper recycling bins

1. **Food Waste** – The committee discussed the problem of food waste. Ms. Whorlow shared that it is estimated that Scotland wastes over 1 million tonnes of food waste every year. Adam explained that use by dates mean we shouldn’t use that food item after this date, such as milk and meat. Lacey said she understood that we can use our eyes and nose to judge if food is still okay to eat if it is past it’s sell by date. We acknowledged that we can reduce waste by using this as a guide. We talked about only buying and taking food that we know we can use up. Adam, Rebecca and Ella agreed to make a Top Tips leaflet to share suggestions on how to reduce food waste. The committee also suggested that we raise the profile of our snack swap station in the dinner hall. If a child has an unwanted food item that won’t keep till another time, they can place it on the food swap station for someone else to eat. Lacey, George and Josh were keen to take on this task.

Action: Adam, Rebecca and Ella to create a Top Tips Food Waste leaflet.

Action: Josh, Lacey and George will make a sign for our Snack Swap Station

**Climate Action**

1. **COP 28** - Ms. Whorlow explained that COP28 is taking place between 28th of November to the 12th of December. This is the 28th annual United Nations (UN) climate meeting where governments discuss how to limit and prepare for future climate change. She showed the children a classroom planner that has suggested STEM activities and experiments the children can participate in to take climate action and become more aware of the problems the planet is facing. The children were particular interested in the competition to design an invention that will help the planet. Ms. Whorlow shared the template with the children. The children thought we should judge the entries by the 1st of December. There will be a small prize for the winning entry

Action: Ms. Whorlow to share the climate invention template with class teachers for entries to be completed by 01/12/23

1. **Switch Off Fortnight** – Ms. Whorlow let the children know that *Switch Off Fortnight* is between the 13th and the 24th of November this term. She asked the children for suggestions on what we might do to reduce energy consumption at school. Adam said we should switch off computers at school and not leave them on charge. He also said we shouldn’t leave devices on stand-by at home too. Rebecca said that if there is enough light, we don’t need to have electric lights on in the classroom. George thinks that we should switch everything off when we are finished with it. Lacey suggested outdoor classroom time where we can turn everything off and go outdoors. Ms. Whorlow thought that this was a great idea. The children will suggest that the teachers plan for going outdoors for lessons during this week.
2. Action: Committee members to speak to class teachers to arrange a ‘switched off’ outdoor classroom day, ideally this week
3. **Renewables Energy Workshop** – Ms. Whorlow informed the committee that the Glasgow Science Centre will be travelling to Portpatrick on Wednesday 29th of November. They will deliver an interactive workshop on renewable energy. She explained that there will be lots of hands-on exhibits for the children to experience. The committee discussed why learning about renewable energy is important. Rebecca thinks this is a good idea to help the planet. Adam thinks we need to think about where our energy comes from and Lacey and Josh agree it is good to find out about the different careers we might have in renewable energy.

**Global Citizenship**

1. **World Children’s Day**– Ms. Whorlow explained to the committee that Mrs McHarg has been very busy organising activities for World Children’s Day on the 20th of November. She has created a QR code for pupils to vote on which campaign children would like to work on as part of our Rights Respecting School Award. The choices are:
   1. Anti-bullying
   2. Christmas shoe box appeal ( PSYV)
   3. Reverse advent calendar for the local food bank
   4. Climate change.

There is an information leaflet for teachers to help them explain to pupils what each campaign is all about. On that day, the children will be invited to scan the QR code to complete a survey on their choice. The committee said that they would tell everyone about this when they got back to class.

Action – All pupils to vote on which campaign they would like to work on for our Rights Respecting School award.

1. **Anti-Bullying Week** – Ms. Whorlow explained that there are lots of events this week and next week. Mrs McHarg has created suggested activities for each class to explore the issue of Anti-bullying. There will be activities in each class delivered by the class teachers.
2. **Children in Need –**The committee explained that our house captains have been busy organising activities for Children in Need on Friday. Ms. Whorlow said that the school is selling merchandise to help raise funds for this national charity. Everyone said they are looking forward to dressing up in blue to coincide with World Children’s Day. The boys and girls are also looking forward to joining in Joe Wicks’ Bearpees workout. Ms. Whorlow said that Mrs McHarg has planned an assembly to help us learn and understand more about our rights. She has also arranged for PC Shannon Walker to visit on the 21st of November to give a talk on children’s rights.

Action: Everyone to participate in Children in Need activities on Friday 24th of November

1. **British Council Project –** Ms. Whorlow explained that P5 – 7 have paired up with a school in Zambia as part of a climate change project. Ms. Whorlow has shared a photograph of a climate issue at our school when our harbour area was being battered by storms. Our Zambian school will do the same. The children will have a discussion on the Who, Why, What, When & Where about the issue in the photo to raise discussion on climate change.

**Action:** Ms Whorlow to hold a discussion activity with her pupils using the climate issue photo that will be received by their partner school

1. **International Pen Pals** - Ms. Whorlow asked the children what we could do to learn about our partner school in Zambia. Lacey thought it would be a good idea if we write letters to the Zambian school to find out what it’s like for the children to live there and for us to share how life is for us here. Rebecca said it would be cool to learn about individual pupils to find out about their lives too. Ms. Whorlow thought we could write ‘e-pal’ emails to use digital technology to connect more efficiently and to save costs.
2. Action: P5 – 7 to write digital letters to our new friends in Zambia which can email them to their class teacher.
3. **Local Residents Christmas Cards** – Adam and Josh said it would be a good idea if P1 – 4 could do something to link up with community members. The committee talked about making Christmas cards for our senior community members. Ms. Whorlow thought this was a lovely idea. Rebecca thought it would be nice if we could make some for our local old folk’s home too. Adam said this would make the residents happy and Lacey agreed.
4. Action: Everyone to make Christmas cards to share with our senior community members.
5. **AOCB** – Ms. Whorlow thanked everyone for their time and hard work
6. **Date of Next Meeting** – To be scheduled

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| **Portpatrick Eco Committee Actions** | **Who by?** | **When by?** |
| Conduct a litter survey of our school grounds | Lacey, Josh and George | 14/11/23 |
| Carry out a litter pick for this week | Lacey and Rebecca | 14/11/23 |
| Create a soft plastics bin sign | Lacey and Rebecca | 17/11/23 |
| Empty the paper recycling bins | Freya, Adam & Freya | 17/11/23 |
| Create a Top Tips Food Waste leaflet. | Adam, Rebecca and Ella | 24/11/23 |
| Make a sign for our Snack Swap Station | Josh, Lacey and George | 24/11/23 |
| Share the climate invention template with class teachers for entries to be completed by | Ms. Whorlow | 01/12/23 |
| Committee members to speak to class teachers to arrange a ‘switched off’ outdoor classroom day, | Eco Committee | 24/11/23 |
| Vote on which campaign they would like to work on for our Rights Respecting School award. | All pupils | 20/11/23 |
| Participate in Children in Need activities | All Pupils | 24/11/23 |
| Hold a discussion activity with P5 - 7 pupils using a climate issue photo from our Zambian partner school | Ms Whorlow | 22/12/23 |
| Write digital letters to our new friends in Zambia which can be emailed to their class teacher. | P5 – 7 | 22/12/23 |
| Make Christmas cards to share with our senior community members. | All pupils | 08/12/23 |