

Catrine Primary School Parent Council

Meeting Date 29th November 2016

Present: Karen Shirkie (Chair), Hilary Sharpe (Treasurer), Shona Shields, Alison Wright – AW - (Acting Head Teacher), Roberta Schendel (Principal Teacher), Carol Leitch, George Murphy, Alison Templeton, Marina Larkholm, Elaine Wilson and Fiona McKinnon (Secretary)

Apologies: Carol Clark

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Minutes of previous meeting: Nominated by Hilary Sharpe, seconded by Shona Shields

Welcome: Welcome extended to new members of parent council and new Acting Head Teacher.

Secretary report: No correspondence received

Treasurer report: Currently £799.96 in bank account

Head Teacher Report

Alison introduced herself as Acting Head Teacher for Catrine PS. She started 2 weeks ago, to help staff in Catrine work on the improvement plan set by East Ayrshire Council and HMIE. Alison wanted to note that the staff and children are very positive in improving attainment in the school. AW would also like to work on parental engagement within school. AW has asked HMIE to come back to the school in December which is prior to the planned repeat inspection, this is partly to review improvements and to ensure the improvements are in the right direction. AW discussed national benchmarking which 'tests' P1, P4 and P7 levels to ensure children are reaching attainment. One thing which has been noted is that children in P1 do not always start school with adequate expressive vocabulary, AW would like to engage parents in reading stories to their children every night, encouraging children to write and talking with their children.

AW has also identified that staff teaching is of high priority. Anti-bullying policy is being reviewed and AW wishes to reiterate that school should be a safe place to learn.

There was some discussion regarding communication with parents as the school photocopier is broken, therefore letters cannot be sent as normal. New website (glow Scotland) available and link was sent by text to parents. Also, discussed Facebook page, agreed that this would be useful for some parents. Only school information will be put on Facebook page. The school have introduced glow for many pupils and plan to introduce this to all pupils with their own logon. Safe internet use and internet safety is also being discussed with pupils.

Staffing

One member of staff is due to commence maternity leave at Christmas holidays.

AOCB

School uniform was discussed and AW agreed that information will be put on website and parents will be asked for their opinion. School uniform will consist of polo shirt, jumpers etc. as usual however option of school blouse/shirt and tie is available. Change to school uniform will not take place until beginning of 2017-2018 school year.

Holiday boxes – parent council will come around school on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday over the next few weeks to sell holiday boxes at 50p a box. Prizes are 4x £25 vouchers.7

AW informed parent council that there is lottery funding available for free childcare for young parents, information to be passed on if relevant.

Next meeting dates:

24th January 2017