

In Attendance

Andrea Fergusson (HT)

Marion Smith (chair)

Joanna McGahon (DHT)

Lesley McLaughlin

Katrina Livingstone

Jaq McCreadie

Counsellor Elaine Cowan

Counsellor David

Apologies

Sarah McDonald

Ainsley Gibson

Lorraine Howat

Alice Burton

Mairi McGill

1. Infant playground entrance –

Council have been made aware of the playground entrance and how dangerous it is. John Leslie (school janitor) will chase this up with EAC. Lesley complained to the council regarding this as well as the pot holes outside of the gates. HT to update on any progress.

2. School term dates –

Option 1 – school close Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Option 2 – school close Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**\*\*Parent council prefer option 2 – finish school on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 \*\***

3. HT report

Trip to Lockerbie – excellent.

P6 information sent out for next year – Barcaple outdoor centre – Castle Douglas (this is much smaller and they are able to accommodate the whole education group – MC, ST Sophias, St Xaviers and St Patricks). It is about the same cost – around £315 and parents are asked for a deposit of £20 to secure space. This can be paid up throughout the year. The same activities are available and the food was excellent (St Patricks went this year). This is always an excellent transition experience for the children as they meet their peers that will also go to St Josephs.

Newsletter – Mrs Webb is retiring in Easter after 25 years. This is a massive loss to the school and we will be celebrating with Mrs Webb the last week of term.

Mrs Pennycook (home link worker) will no longer be part of our team at MC after Easter. Mrs Pennycook was PEF funded and this funding is now being re-routed. All home link workers will be split across all of the schools. Their focus will be on low attendance.

Marion - With this support no longer available, this need will now be the sole responsibility of the school. Families are now being impacted by this change? Mrs F confirmed.

Financial inclusion officer still part of our team for now.

Vision, Values and Aims refresh 3 core values for moving forward.

Aims still being looked at – to be discussed at the meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Big launch on Wednesday of the last week. This ties in with Mrs Webb retirement celebration.

Catholic school – Our staff looked at what makes our school special.

Our families have chosen to send their children to catholic school. This means that our faith must be respected. The school staff have made a decision that all children should therefore attend mass. During Ash Wednesday, all children would be presented to receive their ashes. At our monthly service and liturgical celebrations, all children will be presented to receive a blessing or the Eucharist from father Jim.

As always, we respect all faiths and children who believe in other religions are supported throughout.

Learning visit – After our learning visit, our teaching staff discussed what a gold standard lesson looked like. We looked at our teaching practises, resources used and environment. We discussed what makes an excellent lesson as well as assessments used.

Next session – the school would like to smarten up our school uniform. The school would like to see more children wearing shirts and ties on non P.E. days. School recognises that polo shirts are still school uniform; however these can be worn with skirts or school trousers only. No jogging trousers or legging to be worn. We have now returned to normal after COVID and can get changed for each P.E lesson. This requires each child to have a full P.E kit that can be left in school. This kit will be sent home when it is required to be washed.

This information will be put out on the April newsletter. This allows parents to get organised for a full school uniform during the summer holidays.

The school would also like to remind parents of the excellent uniform exchange that is available at the school office. There is plenty school uniforms, shoes, jackets etc. All are welcome to come and have a look!

Pupil progress meetings – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Other stakeholders that will be available to chat on these nights are Nest, Mark Devlin, Vibrant communities, Nicola Pennycook and Kimberley (financial inclusion officer)

SCIAF programme –

Information already out to parents.

Stryder – came to visit children in school.

World book day – Dress as you please

St Patricks day – Wear green

P5 fun day – 19<sup>th</sup> March

Class raffle – eggs, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

School raffle – Egg, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Easter bonnet Competition – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

We continue with our monthly raffle prizes. The money raised from these help to pay for our house prizes. The school funds will not be able to sustain house prizes such as Jungle madness (an example of this would be that the school raised £100 from term 3 raffles and the cost for Jungle madness was £300). The school have said we will need to look at different ideas for this moving forward.

Sharing the learning. P4 took place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March whilst P5 took place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Both were well attended and the children enjoyed sharing their learning with their adults.

Our summer trip will be to Blair Drummond Safari park. Culzean and Heads of Ayr farm park were also suggested as future possible trips. The link to start paying for this is now on Parent pay.

Primary 1 transition – there are 18 children enrolled. No placing requests. Mrs Duff has visited all of the children at their nurseries and has already began welcoming them into school for their welcome Wednesdays. They will attend in 2 smaller groups up until the Easter holidays and then will come together as a class each Wednesday after Easter. An

enhanced transition system is available and Lesley commented that the buddy system was ideal.

PEF fund update –

Breakfast club staffing.

1 Classroom assistant (full time)

1 Class teacher (0.5 which is half the week)

School are currently considering how to use the PEF fund efficiency next year. Options are...

Homelink worker (due to Nicola Pennycook's re-deployment). This would take up the entire school PEF fund.

Breakfast club (PEF fund used to pay staffing for this). HT keen to keep this as it helps children get breakfast who are late/settles them into the school day.

School have a core Classroom assistant allocation of 50 hours.

School have applied for additional CA hours due to Mrs Webb retirement.

Currently have PEF funded CA hours.

HT keen to fund a PEF Classroom Assistant as well as paying 0.5 teaching hours from PEF. This allows DHT to be out of class. (Normally a DHT would be 0.8 class committed. This is 4 full days per week class committed)

Lesley McL – Asked about breakfast club funding. School have been awarded one grant for this but this pays for the food not the staffing. PC will enquire about further funds available.

As of easter holidays, school's CAs will be paid for 30 minutes per morning instead of 1 hour. Breakfast club and staff will have an 8.15 prompt start.

Marion: "Does the school anticipate any changes to school funding?" Mrs F "yes"

School required feedback on how PC feel the PEF should be spent.

About 30 children accessing breakfast club. The school are having to pay into this due to the non-payment of breakfast club funds by some families.

PC to look into a grant list for funding.

Tesco blue token funding application has been submitted.

Mrs Fergusson asked if PC are able to support school with the purchase of sports equipment. School requires a class set of footballs, basketballs, tennis balls and shuttle cocks as well as new netball bibs. Lesley McL to organise this.

Marion gave an update of funds in fundraising pot – Currently have £3500; however £280 still to come out for P7 hoodies. Also still to pay £80 for DJ at spring disco. (27<sup>th</sup> March)

School also asking for support in buying new microphones and cables for our sound system. PC to confirm.

Marion – governance updated. Bank and Facebook changed to ‘Parents and friends of Mount Carmel’

27<sup>th</sup> March – DJ booked – Morrisons – we have to go there for sweeties.

School to ask for staff helpers for disco. Games to be organised by Jaq.

Summer fun day – 26<sup>th</sup> June – ice cream van, 4 bouncy castles, dress down for £1, cake and juice stall. School to ask parents for home baking donations.

There will still be 2 pupil progress meetings throughout the year and one report card sent in June.

Counsellors discussed school transport trial. Stagecoach buses to be used instead of school buses – that means the children can use their NEC cards instead of paying for a school bus pass. This could essentially impact on our P7s going up for their transition experience at St Josephs. Counsellors confirmed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> paper is coming to cabinet shortly.

Counsellor Cowan confirmed that Mount Carmel is to be part of a 3 school priority project worth 3 million pounds. This will update and improve the fabrics of Mount Carmel’s building as well as the energy efficiency of the building.

Minutes completed by Jacqueline McCreadie.