

Crookfur Primary School Parent Council



Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/parents/parent-council/>

Email: CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday 9th March at 8pm
LOCATION: Zoom Call
CHAIR: Mrs Denny Henderson
PURPOSE OF PARENT COUNCIL: The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 required every school to have a Parent Council. The main aim of a Parent Council is to try to represent all parents/carers, help the school community be successful and support improvement where needed.

1. Welcome and opening remarks

Denny welcome everyone present to the meeting.

2. Present and apologies

Role	Name	Present	Apologies	Role	Name	Present	Apologies
FC	Catherine McLatchie	X		P5	Kari Gillies	X	
FC	Krys Kujawa	X		P5	David O'Gorman	X	
P1	Maaham Ahmad		X	P5	Allyson Gilchrist		X
P1	Sarah Penny	X		P6	Denny Henderson	X	
P1	Amna Munir		X	P6	Gillian Plews		X
P2	Lynsey Williams		X	P6	Fraser Strachan	X	
P2	Melanie McPhail-Smith	X		P7	Wendy Durie	X	
P2	Ailsa Munro	X		P7	Karen McGrady-Parker	X	
P3	Conor Murphy		X	Co-opted	Alistair Gibb	X	
P3	Dawn Jamieson	X		HT	Sheena McGuigan	X	
P3	Jenny Andrew	X			Kimberley		
P4	Michelle Wilson	X		DHT	Slorach	X	
P4	Beverly Stoner	X		DHT	Claire Jamieson	X	

3. Minutes of previous Parent Council meeting

- 3.1 *Approval of the previous minutes* – these are available on the [school website](#) and were approved.

3.2 Actions arising from previous minutes

- Apart from the items below, all actions had been completed or were no longer required.
- Kari has started a document to capture home learning tips and advice from parents for parents. She would like the Parents to contribute any advice or problems they faced to be added into the document.
- An online digital performance / entertainment for the children is still to be arranged. Some suggestions included a magician and a science show. Denny will look into this further and liaise with the school.

Action	Check digital performance / entertainment options and prices.	Denny
Action	Year group reps to ask year groups for advice regarding home learning/technology and reps can then add into Kari's document. Also ask about problems that were unsolved.	PC Reps

4. Recent meetings and events

- Denny attended the virtual parent council chairs meeting on 2 February. Topics covered were recovery and renewal, local improvement plan and a National Parent Forum of Scotland update. Meeting notes have been circulated via email.
- Denny has applied to be a Director for Connect, a charity that promotes parental engagement (nominated by Kari and Sheena). The AGM is later on this month in March, she will find out if appointed at that meeting. She is standing as a parent and not on behalf of the parent council.
- P1 and P2 coffee and chats took place last week and went well despite quite low parent attendance. Further sessions planned.
- Denny has updated her Recruitment and Selection training as required by ERC.

5. What can the Parent Council do to help parents/carers during home learning – follow up

- Offer made for pastoral care calls from staff to P4-7 parents, to help keep in touch with parents. Most have been held now.
- Virtual playtimes were also arranged for the P4-7 children so they had more contact with each other.
- The Google meets this week will be used to prep and build enthusiasm for their return to school next week.

6. P7 events / funding

- A parent had asked whether the Parent Council would consider paying for, or contributing to, the P7 hoodies this year given that some families are struggling due to the pandemic.
- Normally fundraising pays for leavers ties, a gift (autograph books), contribution towards the leavers party, usually works out to being around £700.
- Denny would like to know whether the PC feel we are providing the right amount, should we provide more/should Hoodies be paid for?
- School staff commented that in most other local schools, parents are still paying for the hoodies (fundraising organise but parents pay). There are some other schools paying for them in place of having a leavers party. Mrs McGuigan says it would be premature to assume we weren't able to have any end of term events. Mrs Slorach is meeting with P7 teachers this week and they will be doing some brainstorming about ideas for P7 end of term ideas. There may be requests made to fundraising for help towards any ideas.
- The PC consensus is that spending should be as is and that if any family can't afford a hoodie, support will be provided by the school and/or parent council.
- A PC rep suggested parents could be asked to pay what they can afford, that way no conversations need to be had about finances. This could be used for a variety of circumstances.

7. Financial Report

		IN £	OUT £	BALANCE £
Balance at 26/1/21				15,029.65
Money out				
	Cash for Kids		953.62	
Bank balance on 9/3/21				14,076.03
Cheques still to be cashed				
	Skin tone pencils		135.60	
	Creative Writing Workshop		148.00	
	Present Room expenses		89.39	
	Musical instruments		2,047.06	
	High vis bibs		38.39	
	Committee badges		304.70	
	Books for nursery and P1		233.79	
	Christmas events including pantomime, Christmas crafts and party snacks		1,062.00	
Available to spend				10,017.10

8. Head Teacher's Report including COVID-19 recovery update

8.1 School roll

- Increase of 3 since our last meeting, we now have 493 children in school and 137 in Family centre.

8.2 News

- Primaries 1-3 have now returned to school and Primaries 4-7 will return next week (15 March).
- Key worker provision still running until all children return next week.
- The P4-7 children were asked about what they would like to see more of in the virtual learning day. These ideas have been actioned, such as, show and tell virtually, more arts and crafts.
- A bubble system was created in p1 -3, using the same teachers for support for learning along with NCC time so that there is no cross over of staff. This idea will also be used for the older years when they return, although it will be more complicated due to staff numbers. Management team will help fill any gaps.
- All visiting staff employees have been able to access testing (including lollypop ladies/active schools coordinators). There have been positive tests in the school this week, but procedures are in place, home-learning is set up and the school was well supported to follow guidance.
- Transition activities running this week with P4-7.
- Pupil council leaders meeting with the Director of Education, discussing what they want to keep and what to change.
- Equalities focus – cost of school day. Nothing planned for Comic relief.
- Diversity group – Global festival is coming along well.
- World book day was celebrated last week.

8.3 Events

- The Global Festival is the main event in the next few weeks. It will run online and will celebrate the different cultures of our school, food, stories, art, books. The school are looking for families to offer tutorials. Mrs McGuigan will mention in the next Newsletter, looking for volunteers. It will be used to connect all the families within the school. Hopefully happening around the start of May.

8.4 Budget

- Council budget will be presented tomorrow which will provide an indication of savings that will need to be made.
- The school has made, or plans to make several purchases of packages that can be used to aid recovery, either in class or for homework such as:
 - Rapid Maths
 - Daily Rigour (online maths resource)
 - Collins Big Cat eBooks
 - Read& Write subscription
- These are all big purchases but are believed to be important to help support recovery.

8.5 Staffing

- One additional class teacher and 1 pupil support assistant being funded by Scottish Government.
- Karen Brennan has been appointed to take over as Office manager.

9. Family Centre update

- Google meets/coffee and chats are running this week for parents, to help build a relationship with new parents who don't know the staff and building.
- The Director of Education and Head of Service have both visited the Family Centre last week.
- Children are well settled, the play areas are developing all the time with the influence of the children.

10. Reporting

Mrs McGuigan asked the Parent Council, "What part of the child school report do parents find more important and helpful? What do you not find as helpful?"

Comments from PC were:

- You need to spend a lot of time decoding what the teacher is trying to say.
- Parents want to know a benchmark of where their child is sitting, how they are doing at school, how they fit in etc.
- More info regarding health and wellbeing.

For 2021/22 Mrs McGuigan is considering if parents would prefer a shorter end of year report, but an extra parents evening. She will seek parent feedback on this possible change.

Action	get parent feedback about what they would prefer to see in reports and what they find most helpful	PC reps
Action	links shared with parents about sites such as Head space	Mrs McGuigan
Action	Sharing with the parents, strategies that the school are using for health and wellbeing at school so they can also be used at home as well	Mrs McGuigan

11. Correspondence with parents and carers

	Question	Answer
Family Centre	Has the new logo been chosen?	Almost. We have completed the consultation with children and families and have an idea of what we would like. We are just waiting on a high-resolution image being produced that can be used by school wear stockists.

	Question	Answer
Family Centre – uniform	When will the new uniform/polo shirts be available?	This will be dependant on the badge but hopefully in time for the new admissions (session 21/22). Some suppliers are holding stock that carries the Crookfur Nursery class logo. Schoolwear Made Easy are currently offering the old nursery badged sweatshirts for £3.50 and 3 polos for £10 which children might want to wear in the meantime..
Family Centre – digital Platform	Will the Family centre consider moving to a digital learning platform rather than the paper learning journals? These would be far more accessible for parents.	Not at this time. Learning journals can be accessed at any time by the parents. Please just request it at pickup/drop off. Staff have been asked to look into digital learning journals but there are strong reasons for keeping them paper based around the child being part of the process of creating and maintaining the journal, which you mostly lose if moving to digital.
Family centre – online exposure	Some parents are uncomfortable about the number of photos of children being shared on Twitter. (DH. This was asked at the previous meeting, but the minutes haven't been made public yet so has been asked again.)	Photos of children are only shared with consent. If parents are not happy for their child's photo to be included on Twitter then they can withdraw consent by contacting the Family Centre office (0141 570 7700)
Family centre – online exposure	The Family Centre have asked parents to share photos of what children have been doing at home via Twitter. Some parents are uncomfortable about doing this as if the Family Centre then retweets the photo, the Twitter handle of the parent is then visible by the almost 600 followers of the Family Centre. Is there another way that parents could share photos and information with the Family Centre about home activities.	Sharing photographs of home learning or other events is optional. Correspondence from the family centre has usually given the option to tweet photos or send them in via email. Many parents have opted to directly email photos instead. FCMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk
Family Centre – Dog Poo	There is a risk that dog poo on the edges of the Crookfur pavilion pitches could be washed down into the playground by the rain. How is the risk being addressed by the Family Centre? (The parent who asked this has already been in touch with ERC who were unable to offer a solution).	Dog owners have a responsibility to pick up after their dogs and fixed penalty notices are enforceable by ERC Community Safety Unit. I believe the current fine to be £80. They will patrol the areas where dog fouling is an issue. We have not encountered this so far, however parents may wish to alert the Community Safety team who could put up notices and increase patrols if required. https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/dog-problems Prior to children playing outdoors, family centre staff carry out a visual inspection

	Question	Answer
		and risk assessment of the play areas. Any concerns would be addressed.
Family Centre – additional hours	Are there any plans to start offering additional hours for parents to purchase?	Not at present.

12. Subcommittee updates

12.1 Fundraising Committee

- A treasure hunt is being planned at the moment for the Spring holiday (free of charge)
- The next meeting is on Thursday and all are welcome.

12.2 Diversity Group

- Currently planning the Global festival

13. Any other business – none

Denny Henderson
Chair – Crookfur Primary School Parent Council