

# OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



It's been a busy year! Some of our work you will have seen, some of it you won't... but please be assured that we have been working hard on your behalf to do the best for Our Lady of the Missions and our children.

## International Day

Our first International Day was a huge success – thanks to all who helped organise the event and shared their culture on the day, especially the many families who set up fantastic family stalls and to everyone who came along. As well as arts and crafts, sporting tasters, quizzes and performances (including a reunion of the OLM ceilidh band) we enjoyed making pakora and exercising “bollywood style”. A fantastic occasion bringing the whole school community together.



Thanks to all, including Mrs Cochrane for co-ordinating the amazing pupil performances / displays; our Diversity and Inclusion group; and our organising team (Anne Marie, Bernadine, Bushra, Claire, Faiza, Federica, Geraldine, Gillian, Irina, Ishrat, Kulsoom, Maria, Oksana, Shazia, Wendy and Viktoria).



## Guinness World Record success

Breaking the Musical Bumps world record was a fantastic achievement for the children and just as importantly, was the first time the whole school had gathered together in 10 years. The attempt was organised by The Playground Project (members of the PC and PSA working together) with (huge) support from Miss Kane in school – particular thanks go to Julie

Capaldi, Gillian Boyle, Joanne Miller and Karen Kelly who put in an immense amount of work to make it happen with the (also record breaking) £12,000 raised going towards playground development.

## Communications, traffic and inclusion

We will shortly review the results of our communications survey and report back to the parent forum. We have also been working in the background on issues such as traffic (thank you Karen O'Hara and Pauline Murphy), reporting and a “cost of the school day” initiative - we will work on and report further on these soon – and have given input on various new school policies / the school improvement plan. Our diversity and inclusion group has continued to support the PC – thank you so much to Anne Marie, Bushra, Clare, Faheem, Faiza and Judy for your help. We hope this group will continue to evolve and broaden its remit over time.

## OLM Hubs and “Tea and Tissues”

The PC has hosted a number of successful “hubs” – where parents can get together for coffee and a chat. We will shortly set dates for this coming year. Hope to see as many as possible coming along. We also hosted “tea and tissues” for p1 parents on the first day of school for the second time – it was fantastic to see so many parents popping in. Although a number of mums have been involved in hosting these, particular thanks must go to Anne-Marie Duncan who has been a stalwart at every event (as well as being core to the tea team at the International Day and fetes!).

### **Uniform Sale**

The nearly new Uniform Sale has become an annual event (recently on the same day as the summer fete) and as well as raising valuable funds to support school initiatives, provides great bargains for parents at all stages. Used blazers at all ages (especially larger ones) are particularly sought after and if you have good quality uniform or blazers you no longer need through the school year, these can be handed into school for storage until the sale. Thanks very much to the team of mums (Marie Claire Darroch, Mary Moore, Jo Heraghty and Pauline Burns) who have organised the sale for several years now.

### **The Playground Project**

The Playground Project has had a particularly busy year including creation of the new muddy kitchen, engineering garden and tyre hill; fabulous family action days; parent painted p1 playground markings / games; help with the Chestnut Garden including "Paint a Pebble"; and fundraising / grant applications to support future development. None of this happened by magic and particular thanks go to Karen Kelly, Gillian Boyle and Claire Clark for all their hard work and to the PSA for funding support. You can see further details of current plans on the school web site – please come along and help on the next Family Action Day.



### **Input on consultations**

We continue to give input on behalf of parents in relation to consultations / reviews carried out by ERC / government. A huge thank you to outgoing member Joe McLachlan for advising / updating the Parent Council on all these issues via his role as ERC representative on the National Parent Forum. As well as being a past chair of the PC, Joe has been an invaluable source of support on complex issues affecting the school in education reform for many years.

### **And finally....a few more to thank!**

The PSA raises funds and hosts events which bring us all together – thank you to the members for all their hard work, it's a huge task. Please continue to support the PSA and offer help when needed - every single child in school benefits. Thanks to Mrs Dillon-Ruddy and the whole school team for a great year. It's been fantastic to see initiatives like the STEM room and library come together, again with parent support being a crucial factor. Particular thanks from the PC to the office for all the emailing / copying / tweeting we plague them with on a regular basis! Thanks also to the many local businesses and organisations which have helped us with various projects over the year – we could not have done it without them (see details on the web site).

Thanks finally to members of the Parent Council for giving their time and energy to the school (particularly those who are moving on) and to all the other parents/carers who helped the school in any way through the year - from the mums who sewed "dress up" capes for the infants to the parents who helped in school or on school trips / walks to St Ninian's / mass. Whilst we have mentioned a few above, there really are too many to list. Sorry if we have missed anyone out! We are so much stronger as a school community and can achieve so much when we get involved – please keep up the momentum this year and help the children enjoy another amazing year!

**Our Lady of the Missions Parent Council**