

## OLM Parent Council

*7<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

### Minutes

Attendees:

Anne Marie O'Brien – Co vice Chair

Jon McGrane - Secretary

Catherine Dillon Ruddy – Head Teacher

Angela O'Connor – Depute Head Teacher

Nicola Cochrane

Karen Cumming

Rashid Khaliq

Christopher McLaughlin

Lynne Foley

On line:

Mairead Brophy

Toyyibat Lawal

Ousman Khan

Gavin Gray

Maria McDonald

Apologies:

*Cristina Schieffer*

## ***Last Meeting Minutes***

Minutes proposed by Chris and approved by Anne Marie

### **1. Discussion point – ‘How can the Parent Council best support the school?’**

Anne Marie raised a question on how the PC could best support the school, given the small number of people currently involved.

Mrs Dillon Ruddy highlighted that the PC continuing to drive the Outdoor Group, and the upcoming school musical ‘Shrek’ were keys ways to provide support.

It was acknowledged that more PC members were required and a drive to get volunteers was required

It was raised that the PSA also do not have enough volunteers and as a result may have to cut down on the events they can organise and run

The new P1 Induction Days are the 6th & 7th June, and it was flagged as an opportunity to speak to new parents and get volunteers

**Action:** Angela O’Connor to share details with the PC

### **2. Classification for next Season**

Angela O’ Connor provided an update on the changes to classes in the new term.

These will impact pupils going into Primary 4 in 2023/24 due to there being only 4 classes.

The PC will be updated on the details prior to the changes and were asked to provide support with any questions raised by parents impacted by the changes.

### **3. Outdoor Improvement Team**

An update was provided on the Willow Garden – it will be accessible in March to start working in, and a shipping container has been ordered for storage of equipment.

The Outdoor Group would be mobilising again soon for the Spring / Summer season, and plants have already been purchased.

Activities were being planned for:

- Fairy Garden
- Spring Action Day
- Kids School Litter Picks

The issue of litter around the school was raised, and the fact the playground was looking particularly bad, as well as the surrounding paths.

A specific question was raised about the state of the path running along the top of the Junior Playground, and who is responsible for its maintenance– it is overgrown and is bad for litter.

**Action** – Mrs Dillon ruddy to contact Anne O’Neil (Business Manager) and raise the concerns and clarify who owns the path.

#### 4. Head Teacher Update

The following points were covered in the update:

- **Christmas events** – wonderful opportunities to come together as a community of faith. Thanks to all for support ensuring they ran efficiently. Funds still to be processed for charity as per newsletter but I have reiterated with Office manager that this needs prioritised. Faith in action very evident from our pupils and families
- **Residential trip** a success and a huge thanks to everyone involved. This really is a commitment from the whole school to facilitate this trip for one stage. Staff giving of their own time is so generous. Canon Baillie support was a real bonus. The office staff have to be commended for all of the administration involved, which is actually still being finalised this week. I have not provisionally booked next session as yet until the budget impact has been announced. We may not be in a position to facilitate this excursion in the coming session
- **School Show** scheduled for summer with P6 leading the event. As many stages/pupils as possible will participate. Support of PC will be beneficial in encouraging parents to volunteer and add their expertise to the event. Lion king as example
- **Standardised testing** underway currently for P3/5/7 with SNSA after Easter. All assessment data will be used to inform planning and will be reflected in Parents night feedback/report cards as appropriate. Support of PC to reassure parents of process
- **Budget update**
  - To improve ventilation replacement windows throughout the rest of main building
  - New systems in double base and main gym hall/dining hall
  - Provisional arrangements to be confirmed regarding reading resources for P4-7
  - Staffing – working on the basis as per previous years until budget impact announced
  - No vacancies will be advertised on a permanent basis until situation clarified
- **Whatsapp groups** – protocol
- **Willow Garden:** latest update from council is we are awaiting the contractors to remove their final items and then seed the grounds for hand over. Weather has delayed the process. Our understanding is this will now be March. We are in regular communication awaiting acknowledgement of the status. Resources purchased can be used e.g. planters and bulbs, with a view to locating in garden in due course. Short term plan can utilise the junior playground for activities

#### 5. AoB

- **Dyslexia Support** – A request was raised for the school to set up a support group for parents of Dyslexic children. Allowing them to share experiences, and provide support to each other.

**Action:** Karen Cummings to look into sign posting what is currently available, and clarify what the school could provide to increase support.

- **Bus Policy**

A new policy has been developed and is accessible on the school website [here](#)

- **Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> May @ 6.30pm**

Meetings will be in St Ninian's and available via Teams.