

OLM Parent Council

6th December 2022

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

Ajaz Ahmed

Lynne Foley

Provost Mary Montague

On line:

Mairead Brophy

Toyyibat Lawal

Ousman Khan

Gavin Gray

Maria McDonald

Apologies:

Cristina Scheeffner

Last Meeting Minutes

Minutes proposed by Chris and approved by Ajaz

1. Role of the Parent Council & attracting new members

Anne Marie led a discussion on how to increase membership of the PC:

- Proposal to hold an event in the New Year
 - Similar to the International Event held pre Covid
- Use Twitter & School Newsletter to communicate the role & the importance of the PC
- Publish an update following the December meeting – using FB page
- Potential to use a Notice Board in the school

1. Cost of the School Day

Anne Marie raised the issue about the ongoing financial challenges facing families and how the PC could help.

Following successful School Uniform & Halloween costume Swap a Communion Dress swap is to be launched by the school in January

A calendar of events to be developed for 2023 of initiatives

Catherine reiterated the desire that parents do not spend money on presents for teachers at Christmas

Potential to make a donation on behalf of staff gifts – Missio charity

ACTION: Parent Council to confirm message via Class Reps WhatsApp channel

2. Outdoor Improvement Team

Cristina provided a written update from the Outdoor Improvement Team:

During recent meetings with Mrs Cumming and Mrs McFadden we planned actions to prepare the new willow garden for the students. A list of tasks and an action day were discussed. The outdoor team will organise volunteers and advertise the information in communication channels for the action day.

· Member from the Outdoor improvement team prepared an information board and presentation for parents during the school Parent's evening to promote the Outdoor team's work and register new volunteers in October.

· A list of funding opportunities for the school and the new garden was sent to the school and Mrs Cumming would look through.

- On 16th of November two loads of bark were donated and delivered by Choice Tree Services company.
- A group of volunteers and children were organised to spread the bark in all muddy movers area.
- On 23rd of November, Laura Cormac met a member of 'Goody Foody Garden' to receive and store donations of plastic green houses, poly tunnel, pallet planters and compost.
- On the 2nd of December, we met Mrs Ferris and children from P1 to fix the fairy doors and signs in the Fairy Garden.

Next steps:

- We are waiting Heron Bros to clear the site for further access to the Willow Garden and start the work with volunteers.
- A day will be organised with the school and p1 children to fix the remaining doors in the Fayre Garden.
- Remaining stones will be removed from the Chestnut Garden and stored in the new garden as soon as we can have access to the Willow Garden.
- A planting bulb event will be organised with the school to help the children from the Guardian of the garden.

3. Sustainable Travel Update

Rashid provided an update on initiatives to reduce traffic congestion around the school:

Looking at funding options

Investigating producing a flyer in the new year to get support for this sub group

Targeting January Newsletter & March parents night for a recruitment drive

ACTION: Anne Marie to do an introduction to David for Rashid

ACTION: Angela to mail Rashid a copy of the Travel Plan

A discussion was had around staggering school start times to ease congestion. Catherine informed the committee that it would not be feasible due to teacher contracts and starting times.

Point raised about the Sustainable Travel committee to include all sustainable issues, and not just travel

Jon raised a point about single use plastic and the 'glow sticks' sold at PSA School disco.

4. Diocese Update

Chris provided an update on a Meeting with Diocese committee –

'Travelling Crib' initiative currently active in the school for all P1''s

Parish 'reimagining' – Priests across the Diocese are looking to specialise in particular areas e.g. old people homes,

5. Curriculum Rationale

Angela gave an overview of the *Curriculum Rationale* – which includes the School Improvement Plan and Curriculum Development

This is Available on the [school website](#)

The [School Handbook](#) was also shown – Angela is looking to get feedback on what it should include. This [link](#) should be used for any handbook feedback

ACTION – Links to be distributed via class reps WhatsApp

A question was asked about a school App.

ACTION – Karen to look into an App and what would be involved

6. Head Teacher Update

Catherine presented the HT Report.

Budget cuts – Catherine encouraged parents to look at impact of budget cuts and complete current East Ren. Council consultation

Budget cuts could potentially be an impact of 7 staff members

ACTION: Reminder to be sent out to parents to complete consultation via class reps WhatsApp

Science Trips – Dates for Helpers needed

ACTION: Angela to send out a schedule of dates that helpers are needed & PC to circulate via class reps

Angela provided an update on Parental Engagement –

Videos have been produced to assist parents with supporting Children at home e.g. phonics

7. AoB

Next meetings: 7th Feb & 2nd May @ 6.30pm

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