



# St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Held via Zoom

## Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Parent Attendees** Katrina Adams (Secretary & Uniform Rep), Samantha MacConnell (Chair), Sharron Constable (Vice Chair), Jackie McHendry (Treasurer), Stacey Hogg (Social Secretary), Ian Anderson (Vice Treasurer), Caroline Gray, Kirsty McDiarmid (Vice Social Secretary), Marie Rankin, Nicola Hill, Claire McKerlie

**St Joseph's School Representatives:** Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), NQT's A Grunner, N Griffith, L O'Boyle

**Apologies** Trish Gordon, Julie Richardson,

Opening Prayer

Meeting Ground Rules

Minutes of previous meeting circulated

Matters arising

### Chairs Update

It has been a relatively calm and easy start for me in my new role as Chair.

My objectives are to **increase our presence and relevance to the parent forum** through supporting our efforts to raise approximately £15,000 of funds in 2020/21, if this is possible, to fund the remainder of the Scotplay playground equipment and also **to improve upon the methods by which we communicate with the parent forum**, which may bolster greater engagement and participation in general with the Parent Council, the Social Committee and other our other Sub Committees. I shall revisit sub committees in a moment.

These are not new initiatives of course, but are ones I hope to take forward successfully in the ever changing and uncertain landscape we all find ourselves in.

Our **Christmas Newsletter** is about to be circulated and we have successfully ramped up our **communications though our Class Representatives on our Class Whatsapps**, which I believe we all feel have been well received. I should like to come back to the subject of Class Whatsapps in a moment.

There have been a good variety of information sessions offered by Connect recently. The **Parents Equalities Forum** on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 was kindly attended by Katrina Adams on my behalf. This was an interesting session held in conjunction with the review on Black Lives Matter of the current curriculum, with the focus upon how historical black figures have been portrayed. The discussion was around looking into decolonising the curriculum to ensure that black and minority figures are portrayed in a positive light.

I attended the **Role of Parent Council** session on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020, which raised some interesting points about inclusion of the parent forum in terms of communication and fundraising.

Similarly, the **Connect Reaching out to Parents** session on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 covered themes of engagement, and specifically who is missing, the challenges facing parent councils in engaging successfully with their families and the potential solutions.

The **Role of the Chair Connect** session on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 usefully covered face to face and virtual meetings points, inclusion, delegation, decision making and challenges.

The scheduled **Connect Events on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November** were sadly postponed and no-one is able to cover the Connect session on this evening on Classlists, as it clashes with our own meeting.

I shall be in attendance tomorrow on the **ERC Parent Council Chairs' Forum** and will report back that at our next meeting in February.

Before I conclude the points which I would like to cover a couple of points. These are :-

1. Our **Class Rep Whatsapp system** is working well, but I would like to suggest that we establish separate stand-alone class whatsapps groups which are specifically for PC communication via the rep and which do not have a reply function for recipients; with the intention being any queries, questions or communication of thanks etc and sent directly to the Rep to respond to, or escalate if appropriate via our dedicated Class Reps Whatsapp group for Stacey's attention and mine. I am not seeking to create extra work for the sake of it with this suggestion: I feel that piggy backing off the whatsapp groups that existed historically as we are doing at present is undesirable for a couple of reasons: -
  - A. Our messages can get easily post within reams of other chitchat;
  - B. Our messages might sometimes look like the opinion of the sender and not the pc's; &
  - C. In establishing visibly independent groups we can go back to the parents and actively get their consent to being part of the group, ensuring we have ever parent (provided they wish to be added) and that no one who has for example left the school, is included.

Are the members happy with this suggestion? I felt it might be better practice but would like to hear others views please.

2. Our **Sub-Committees** - I would like to revisit what we have, who has historically been involved in them, check they are still interested in giving their time and then to look afresh at what we might usefully map put as our objectives with these groups, to increase engagement with our parents and to achieve results. I would propose this be raised as an agenda item at our next meeting.

My final point is to get clarity this evening on the **date of our February meeting** please which appears to be undecided, being either 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

- It was discussed at the meeting and agreed on 23<sup>rd</sup> February for next meeting

### **Head Teachers Update**

- The Head Teacher highlighted the hard work and dedication of the teachers and school staff.
- Also grateful to Samantha, Stacey and the Parent Council for all the work and support since the start of term
- The pupils are happy to be back at school and have continued to be more settled as the year continues. The teachers' assessment has highlighted there are no significant attainment gaps. She recognises this will have been aided by the work from teachers during the lockdown period. Support groups are in place for spelling and numeracy.
- A Seasons for Growth group has been established for children suffering from loss, separation or bereavement. There is also a Rainbow group for children in need of emotional and behavioural support.
- The teachers will be asking the children to again tell them their perspectives through the My World Triangle. In particular, this term it may help identify children whose families are facing financial difficulty. The school want to make sure parents know they can offer support.
- The children (and the teachers) really enjoyed the Halloween fun day and are looking forward to the winter wonderland.
- Standardised tests will be happening in February as normal, there is no change due to covid
- Miss Quinn has asked if the parent council would fund a green screen at an estimated cost of £200. This request was supported.

### Treasurer's Update

<b>Opening balance last accounts (28 July)</b>	<b>£12,336</b>	
<b>Income through bank transfer for Halloween squares</b>	£1,620	
<b><i>Payment for new play equipment that came off in October</i></b>	-£8,296	
<b>Transfer for expenses and prize money</b>	-£1,074	All vendors noted on next tab, receipts kept for records
<b>Revised balance as at 2 November</b>	<b>£4,586</b>	

Income from the Halloween squares was £1,620, expenses of £1,074 and someone donated £50 prize money back to the school. So as at the start of November, we had £4,586 in the bank. Since then, funds have been used for the p1 welcome night (£124) and £1,300 for expenses for the Christmas fun day so far. Income is expected to be received for the hamper raffle. An update will be given to the Parent Council once all incomes and expenses are known (which should be very shortly after the day).

For term 2019-2020, the accounts remain unaudited but that should be arranged by the end of the year.

### Social Secretary Update

Halloween was a success, kids received fun games, Halloween toy & treats for classroom together with a sweet treat to take home. Decorated Playground with inflatables and decorations... Profit of just under £600

S Hogg on 3rd Nov had zoom call with Eventbrite - to liaise with various other school regarding Social & fundraising ideas, Many ideas and suggestions we currently do and many to look at and put into practice. Slides are available on request.

P1 Welcome night - we will be conducting 3 separate zoom calls on Friday 27th Nov at 6pm, our Class Reps for these Classes will conduct the meeting - our very own Pirate Captains, we have gone for Pirate theme and will be giving the kids treasure boxes, filled with props to take home, plus we have included a couple of tea bags and biscuits for the parents/guardians. Treasure games on line, go search for.....!! Kids will carry out whilst parents can chat and mingle.

Christmas Fun Day 17th December - we have organised Reindeer and Sleigh for 5 hours of the day and are aiming to purchase inflatables, party games, party treats, a gift from Santa (this may be selection boxes, suggestions greatly appreciated), hot chocolate stand, chocolate fountain stand or candy floss stand (all depends on COVID restrictions).

Fundraising -we are requesting from each year group an item to bring into the school, we have done this in previous years for the summer fayre, looking for these items to be brought into school by 20th November. Sending email w/c 9th Nov with items per class for distribution, includes perishable items for school to distribute (if required) or food bank.

From the above items we will create 15 hampers and sell raffle tickets for each class, so we have a winner in each class. Closing date 4th December.

Next Social committee meeting 1st December 20

### Uniform Update

Leavers Hoodies – two years ago we were asked to allow children to pick colour between Navy / Royal Blue / Grey however Navy has always been the preferred choice. Do we continue to offer the option or do we stick with Navy going forward.

Winter Top-up did not go ahead due to COVID restrictions with delivery and collections

March order – current supplier prices have significantly increased to the point that some items (for example standard ties and knitwear) are now cheaper or the same price at other supplier although winter jackets and blazers are still significantly cheaper. We've also had an ongoing issue with out of stock of knitwear and while been supplied its usually late. With added complications of delivery and collections as a result of COVID how do we want to proceed with March order and subsequent New P1 order in June?

- Discussed at meeting, PC agreed that combined order could be missed out in March but it would be really helpful to parents to have a list of stockists with indications on where the lowest prices can be found on items such as blazers

### **AOCB**

Communication – The PC supported the idea of setting up WhatsApp groups that will be only for PC information.

Ownership of the PC Twitter accounts is currently with Trish Gordon, to be a discussion point at next meeting

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