



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL & SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

WELCOME TO OUR WINTER NEWSLETTER OF 2022

In our first Parent Council Newsletter of the new academic session, on behalf of all of the committee members of the Parent Council, we should like to extend a warm welcome and a huge thank you for the generosity of our St. Joseph's parents in supporting all of our fundraising initiatives in 2021/22.

We would take this opportunity of reiterating that all monies raised by the Parent Council go directly towards supporting projects and initiatives which benefit all of the pupils within the school, as directed by our Head Teacher.

Our fundraising objective for 2023 is for outstanding playground equipment. (February Disco will be held to raise funds for playground equipment unless Head Teacher requests a change to this. We are targeting Swing bars for the upper playground & a Playship for infant playground.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those families who have continued to support us through monthly donation by standing order; or in some cases, a termly or one-off donation by bank transfer, to enable us to continue to support the school.

The bank details for the parent council are below:

Sort Code 80 12 88

Account Number 00316602

All such support is completely anonymous, enormously appreciated, benefits all of the children within our school and is an additional method of support which we introduced during the pandemic. As we come out of this and back into our preferred in person methods of raising funds through social events for our families, this support is still hugely beneficial.

UPCOMING PARENT COUNCIL MEETING DATES IN 2023

Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7pm (via Teams), Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7pm (via Teams) & Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 7pm (via Teams). Reminder notifications of the meeting, a call for agenda items and notification of attendance will be issued by our Secretary Claire Campbell ahead of each meeting, whereupon Teams login details will be supplied to all those parents who have indicated they wish to engage with the meeting.

Please be assured that our Parent Council meetings are open to all parents. New parents are warmly welcomed and there is no pressure whatsoever to speak or volunteer for anything at these meetings; we simply welcome greater participation from our parent forum. Any questions or queries related to parent council meetings should be directed to sjpc.pc.sec@gmail.com

UPCOMING SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES IN 2023

Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 7pm (via Teams), Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7pm (via Teams), Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7pm (via Teams). The office will email link and class representatives will send WhatsApp reminder which will include link to Teams. All parents welcome, new ideas and volunteers are greatly appreciated.

Please contact Stacey Hogg at stjosephspcsocial@gmail.com with any queries or ideas or offers to volunteer.

GET IN TOUCH

Our Head Teacher is looking for parental support in the following areas:

- **STEM/IDL – parental input to form partnerships with other agencies to enhance the provision in curricular areas of STEM (Term 1), Social Subjects (Term 2) and Expressive Arts (Term 3);**
 - **Additional Support Needs – ensuring that relevant documentation is child friendly and there are opportunities for parental support groups and input from specialist areas; &**
 - **Gardening Club – parental support with maintaining and improving the school garden.**
- Please get in touch with any suggestions, ideas, offers of help or raffle prizes (which are gratefully received throughout the year) via Class Whatsapps or on stjosephspcsocial@gmail.com.**



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OFFICE BEARERS & VACANIES

Please see below the list of Office Bearer roles within the Parent Council, who is holding these after our AGM on 20th September '22 and which roles which are still vacant.

Whilst our parents generously support the Parent Council with help to run events, by being Class Representatives and with donations, we have in recent years been thin on the ground with Office Bearers. At present there are 7 parents effectively covering all 11 roles (including the vacant roles, which cannot be left without cover); something which is neither sustainable nor ideal.

If anyone has any questions about any of the vacant roles, please contact Samantha MacConnell at sjpc.pc.sec@gmail.com.

Without additional volunteers the Parent Council potentially will not be able to continue to provide the same level of support to the school and to our parents. Whilst being an Office Bearer does require a commitment of time and effort, it is rewarding, you are actively supporting the school and being involved in your child's education and creating a legacy for future pupils. Please consider attending our next meeting on 21st February and of volunteering for a vacant role. We are a small, friendly group who support each other. Any of the roles can certainly be co-run by two interested parties, thereby reducing the burden on time, if this might encourage parents to get involved.

Chair – VACANT

Vice Chair – VACANT

Secretary - Claire Campbell

Vice Secretary - Katrina Adams

Treasurer – Lynn Johnson

Vice Treasurer – Nicola Hill

Social Secretary – currently Stacey Hogg

Vice Social Secretary – Suzanne Kavanagh

Uniform Rep –Katrina Adams

Deputy Uniform Rep – Samantha MacConnell

Communications Secretary - VACANT

INCREASED COMMUNICATION WITH OUR PARENTS

We have sought to improve upon our communications with parents, by building upon the quality and frequency of our communications with parents through our Class Representative Whatsapp groups, as a way of ensuring that important school information is communicated effectively to parents. Each class within the school now has a Representative and a Deputy, where there is a willing volunteer, to ensure assistance in disseminating the increase in our communication and to ensure a smooth transition of ownership into

the following academic year. This also ensures greater inclusion of parents to the Parent Council. On a recent evaluation of parental support of our Class Whatsapp system (September 2021), we have between a 90 – 95% uptake from parents. If you are not in your child's class Whatsapp and would like to be, please contact Samantha MacConnell at sjpc.pc.sec@gmail.com

Important information is also circulated via the Parent Council Twitter Account StJosephs_PC Please follow us on Twitter to stay informed.

We aim to circulate two or three Newsletters per academic year at a minimum and stand out items of information are emailed to parents via the school office on our behalf.



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CURRENT CLASS REPS & DEPUTIES

P1A – Natalie Sannino is the new Rep with Julie Waugh as her new Deputy

P1B – Claire Friel as the new Rep, no deputy at the moment

P2A – Jacqueline Watson is the new Rep if she can't get anyone else, Victoria Tyler will stay on as Deputy

P2B – Siobhan Anderson is the Rep with Amy Dickson as her Deputy

P3A – Karen Jordan is the new Rep with Claire Sweeney as her new Deputy

P3B – Samantha MacConnell is the Rep with Lynn Johnson as her Deputy

P4A – Kirsty McDiarmid is the Rep with Angela Macklin as her new Deputy

P4B - Marie Rankin is staying on a Rep & Jennifer Walker continuing as her Deputy

P5A – Amy Dickson is the Rep with Alison Whitehead as her Deputy

P5B - Stephanie McGill is the Rep with Ushna Mahmood as her new Deputy

P6A - Rosie McCluskey is the new Rep with Flic McMenamin the new Deputy

P6B – Marie Claire Mackie is the Rep with Kelly-Ann Adams as her Deputy

P7A – Jeannot Hutcheson is the Rep with Eileen McAndrew as her new Deputy

P7B – Alison Whitehead is the Rep with Lindsay Jack as her new Deputy

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS – INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Thanks to our February '22 Fundraising Ball, the costs of another two pieces of playground equipment, costing just over £6,600, for both upper and infant playground were installed, bettering our children playground experience.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

The parent Council also supplied camera filming equipment and £2,000 worth of infant reading books.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS HOSTED 21/22

Fundraising Events - Halloween howl raffles, £1,500, 100 squares, £500, February Fundraiser, £5,115 & East bunny competition, £231.

Donations - Received from Parents monthly standing orders, £2,450, Easy Funding app £1,067.

Activities & Events hosted

Our P1 Welcome Pirate theme zoom meeting with gift bags. Halloween Howl with games, treats and sweets, our Christmas Extravaganza Day, workshops, treats and sweets, St Joseph's Day treats for whole school, Easter treats for whole school, First Holy Communion brunch within chapel hall Sunday after communions. Wild Week workshops & activities and P7 Leavers Celebrations Disco.



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Thanks to the support of our parents we were able to supply the school with gardening tools & equipment, wood chips for around planters, sand for infants sandpit, painting garden pods, benches, tables and bug house.

CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING & TARGETTED

The additional Trim Trail Playground Equipment which we are target raising funds to provide totals £4,711.74 and includes:-

Senior Playground

1. Swing Mat with Grass Mats £1,602.94; & (All carriage and removal from site £550.00).

Infant Playground

2. Playship with Grass Mats £2,558.80.



2023 ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES

Looking forward the Parent Council envisages hosting and supporting the following activities and events for our young people:-

Christmas Extravaganza, St. Joseph's Day, Easter Competition, First Holy Communion Brunch, Wild week & the P7 Leavers celebrations.

OTHER ENVISAGED SUPPORT

Other items which usually arise annually, and may do so later in 2021/22 depending upon Coronavirus restrictions are:-

1. Buses for trips, high school visits £3,000;
 2. Wild Week, school equipment as directed by the HT, can vary from £200-£2,000: &
 3. P1 Welcome Nights, First Holy Communions, St. Joseph's Day, Halloween, Easter and P7 Leavers Disco, all require Parent Council financial support.
- We are therefore targeting a sum of £10,000, if possible, by the end of summer 2023.

OUR NEXT EVENT – WINTER WONDERLAND WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER 22

SOCIAL FAMILY NIGHT SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 23

SPONSORED BOUNCE APRIL 23

CHILDRENS CLASS TEATOWELS JUNE 23

NEXT ECO UNIFORM RECYCLING EVENT SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER 22

Following on from the success of our first eco-uniform recycling event on Sunday 2nd October at St. Joseph's Church after 10am where we raised £190, our next uniform recycling event will be held after 10am mass in St. Joseph's church hall during the coffee morning on Sunday 4th December.

All badge & unbadged uniform items are welcomed, as are shoes in good condition, wellies, Communion dresses & also Christmas jumpers, as our HT is running a Christmas Jumper swap in December & any left-over Christmas jumper stock will be passed on to the school. All proceeds raised from voluntary donations for items are divided equally between church and school funds.

Thank you to our parents for the generous donations received so far and for the support at the last event. A very special mention of thanks to local business Pauls & Zapatitos for their tremendously generous donation of brand-new school shoes.

Any questions or comments, offers of help, or help needed dropping off donations, please contact Samantha MacConnell at stjosephsuniforms@gmail.com

Our third event is planned for Sunday 5th February 2023, again after 10 Mass.



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ERC PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

The Parent Council has been circulating information via our Class Reps for the past fortnight on the range of proposed cuts to services, including education, which East Renfrewshire Council is currently considering. The Council has a live survey which closes on 9th December, seeking ERC residents' views on the proposed cuts.

Attached are various papers which have been published by the Council together with a presentation which made available to the temporary acting chair who attended a meeting on 14/11 on behalf of the parent council.

For ease of reference below is the link to the Council's survey and a brief summary of the proposed cuts to education:

Please see again the link to East Renfrewshire Council budget consultation.

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/5420/Budget-Briefing-2023-2026-Shaping-our-Future>

Summary of Education Overview

TOTAL SAVINGS - £19.9m

Savings proposals in five broad areas:

- Reduction in Devolved School Management budgets involving teachers
 - Reduction in Devolved School Management budgets involving other staff groups & budgets
 - Reduction in centrally-Based Education staff
 - Reductions in centrally-based budgets
 - Income generation: school meal price increase
1. Reduction in Devolved School Management Budget involving teachers
TOTAL SAVINGS - £13.6m
Proposals – Could reduce funding for:
 - Lowest 20% pupils
 - Pupil Support Teachers and support for equity
 - Covid recovery staff
 - Reduce absence cover funding
 - Smaller classes in English and Maths in secondary
 - Management structures and staffing in ELC and management structures in Primary/Secondary schools
 - Pupil week in primary – Change to 22.5 hours

2. Reduction in Devolved School Management Budget involving other staff groups and budgets

TOTAL SAVINGS - £1.4m

Proposals – Could reduce funding for:

- Pupil Support Assistants
- School based business support staff
- Some trips, activities/clubs in special sector
- Support for Quality budget and Classroom Supplies
- Proposals – Could remove funding for:
 - School Librarians, Multi-media technicians and Bilingual Support Workers
- Easter school and outdoor education

3. Reduction in centrally-based Education Staff

TOTAL SAVINGS - £2.5m

Proposals – Could reduce funding for:

- Quality Improvement Team and ELT
- Educational Psychology
- Adult Learning and Early Intervention
- Cleaning, catering and janitorial services
- Business and budget support

4. Reduction in centrally-based budget & income generation

TOTAL SAVINGS - £676k

Proposals – Could reduce funding for:

- Hospital tuition
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Campus Police Officers
- Junior Conservatoire
- Early Years – align eligibility with legislation
- Income Generation – school meal price increase £116k

5. Further Savings

TOTAL SAVINGS - £1.5m

Proposals – extremely challenging but could

include:

- Seeking further efficiencies e.g. property costs
- Further cuts to central education budgets
- Further cuts to Devolved School Management budgets

Thank you, your Parent Council