

St Mark's Primary School,

Parent Council Meeting,

Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2016,

St Lukes High School, 7pm.

#### Apologies

Paul Gibson, Anna Marie Johnston, Emma Cuthbert, Lynne Cooper.

#### Attendance

Marie Skinner, Jillian Geddes, Tricia Mainland, Alison Walsh, Margaret Higgins, Cara Geddes, Lorraine McLachlan, Natalie Fitzsimmons, Christine Healey, Ruth Lancaster.

#### Fairtrade Pupil Group

At the beginning of the meeting we were joined by the Fairtrade Pupil Group. Eve Mainland and Grace Lancaster gave an excellent update on the group's activities. The Fairtrade group had a stall at Parents Night which sold sweets and gifts and raised an amazing £130.45. Fairtrade pupils will be running a Fairtrade Fortnight in the school. The whole school will be involved in a competition to create a 'fruity mascot'. Local businesses have been contacted to come in and demonstrate cooking techniques with pupils. The Fairtrade group will also be presenting at assembly and presenting to individual classes in the upcoming months. Lots of hard work! Well done Fairtrade Pupil Group.

#### Chairs Report

Many thanks to Alison Walsh, for chairing the Parent Council Meeting in Paul's absence.

Breakfast Club - As everyone is aware the Breakfast Club is due to close in the beginning of April 2016, however East Renfrewshire Council have found a new service provider which can provide a Breakfast Club from 7.45-9.00 at a cost of £3.90 per child / £3.50 per sibling. The Department of Education has sent notice of new provider and requested a response from the PC by the 29/1/16. At this point no definitive response has been sent, but Paul has sent a communication apologising for our lateness and that our decision will be made as soon as possible. There has been some discussion surrounding who is actually responsible for the Councils Breakfast Club plan, should it be the responsibility of the PC, the School or the Council? At this point however it is the responsibility of the Parent Council to gauge parent's opinion and advise ERC of the amount of interest in a potential new provider of the Breakfast Club. The Council are looking for a minimum of seven children to enable the new providers to run. From the St Mark's Parent Council survey which was done in November it seems we have minimum amount of interest needed, therefore it was decided that if this was the case then we would go ahead and agree to the new provider. The

new provider will also be potentially running Breakfast Clubs in other Barrhead schools such as Carlibar and Springhill/Auchenback .

As mentioned previously the Breakfast Club is not the schools actual responsibility and Mrs Fitzsimmons has appropriately sent on the information and correspondence to the PC in a timely manner.

East Renfrewshire Council doesn't make it clear how the service will be managed, for example do we need to book a place for our child or pay by monthly direct debit. More information is needed before an actual decision can be made, not just by the small group of PC parents but by St Mark's families and parents altogether. Hopefully when the PC receives feedback from the Council we can put something out for the parents and carers.

Action – Ruth to liaise with Paul regarding survey response and feed back to East Renfrewshire Council our PC / parent's decision ASAP. Obtain more information regarding how the service will be managed?

Social Media – Please ensure all images and texts are appropriate when using social media affiliated with the school.

#### Treasurer

Mrs Fitzsimmons has requested funding of £750 for another 'Wee Red Box' (the mathematics learning tool to help raise attainment in P1-7 math.) This was agreed by the PC.

No financial balance at present as Emma unable to attend meeting.

Action – Emma to give £750 cheque to school.

### Communication

To help the PC function as a group it has been highlighted that better communication would really help, therefore it was mentioned that all post holders should be included in emails in relevant discussions so everyone is in the loop.

Christmas Fayre raised a huge amount last year to thank all our donators Ruth and Marie will be distributing 'thank you' letters to everyone who contributed.

Newsletter to be produced for this term notifying parents of changes to meeting dates, forthcoming events. Hopefully a newsletter may interest parents in joining the PC!

Action – Ruth to do Thank you letters and Newsletter!

### Head Teacher Report

Social Media – Mrs Fitzsimmons would like to guarantee that all guidelines for the use of social media are being maintained at St Mark's. At present there are two sets of guidelines one for Staff and one for business use for the schools Glow or Twitter accounts and for the Parent Council Facebook page etc. Mrs Fitzsimmons will email a copy of these guidelines to PC secretary for distribution to relevant members.

New Teachers – St Mark's welcome Miss Donaldson to P5b and Miss Donachy who will both be with us until the summer. St Mark's still have 1 permanent post to be filled alongside various temporary posts due to acting posts.

Management Structure – As mentioned in previous meetings, East Renfrewshire Council are attempting to make savings in education which was thought would alter the management structure of St Mark's in the future. However following a management and Pupil Support Structures review, thankfully the council has made no change to St Mark's staffing. The review was based upon an 'equitable model' where schools in areas of deprivation have additional management staff to support its pupils. Therefore the staffing numbers will stay the same at

present, many other East Renfrewshire school in areas of affluence may see the cut backs that have been discussed. The Admin and clerical review is still being addressed.

School improvement partnership – The School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP) is a solution-focused approach to Scotland’s attainment issues with a focus on innovating to tackle educational inequality. It draws on the wealth of international educational research and practice demonstrating that the most effective school improvements are locally owned and led by teachers and school leaders working in partnership and collaboration with like-minded professionals.

St Mark’s have chosen to work in partnership with Arthurlie Family Centre and specifically to raise attainment in maths focusing on the early years/infants. Arthurlie and St Mark’s have put a bid in to fund the employment of a Child Development Officer to work within St Mark’s and Arthurlie. The P1 and 2’s atrium outside the classroom will be developed to make it a more fun based learning space with learning through play being emphasised. . East Renfrewshire Council has also been given an Attainment adviser to help support raising attainment, she will work with a number of schools in Barrhead including St Mark’s.

#### Fundraising

Valentines Disco 9<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2016 – Volunteers needed as always, if interested please contact Marie Skinner. Crisps and juice has been bought by Emma, DJ and Let has been confirmed.

Action – Marie to contact Margaret K to print pupils registers out and look at volunteers available.

Car boot sale – cancelled due to lack of time to organise event. Car boot sale has been replaced with a Race Night. PC not yet sure of venue or date possibly March or May 2016, watch this space.

First Holy Communion – The last few years have seen St John’s Church ticket this event to avoid any chaotic overfilling of the church, parent council volunteers have then supervised entry to the church by taking tickets at the door, however it was felt last year that this was maybe not needed and it was not appropriate for parents to ask for tickets and prevent entry

if no ticket is provided. Margaret Higgins will ask Father Paul what his plan is for this year's Holy Communion is and express our concerns and feedback at next official meeting.

P7 Leavers – As this P7 year is the biggest St Mark's has seen (66 pupils) the PC were considering what format the dance after the Mass should take, Marie and Lynne will meet with Mrs Fitzsimmons and Miss Healey to discuss arrangements this Tuesday the 9/2/16. It has been proposed that we have a pupil only disco after the Mass or we find a bigger venue? Mrs Higgins will check whether St John's church hall will be useable at that time as there is maintenance work being done. Mrs Fitzsimmons / Miss Healey will also check if there is a class photo with every pupil on it, to be used for the celebration cake.

Other fundraising ideas... If there is any ideas that parents/ pupils have please get in touch. Considering maybe having a fundraising football mini tournament, Ruth to contact Active School Coordinator for some ideas. Cara Geddes and Mrs Higgins both know 'famous' footballers which may help a mini tournament get some attention and enthusiasm!

Action – Marie and Lynne to look at venue and confirm host for Race Night.

Action – Mrs Higgins to query plans for First Holy Communion 2016. Can we use St Johns Hall for P7 Leavers?

Action – Marie and Lynne to meet with school re P7 leavers.

Action – Ruth to contact Active Schools Coordinator.

Next meeting will be an informal fundraising meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2016 @7pm St Luke's.

Next 'official' meeting will be on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, St Luke's High School @7pm, with Head Teacher and Church Representative.