

St Mark’s Primary School Parent Partnership Meeting 02.10.18

Attendance

Parent Forum: Emma Cuthbert, Louise Kennedy, Marie Skinner, Jennifer Baillie, Paul Townsend, Heather Douglas, Anna Marie Johnston, Cara Louise Geddes, Susan Gibson, Paul King, Sian O’Brien, Frankie Robertson, Jacqueline Turner and Julie Dunn

Teaching Staff: Natalie Fitzsimmons, Christine Healey and Karen Cumming.

Parish Priest: Father Joe Burke

Activities: Dawn Smith

Apologies

Lynn Costello-Duffy, Carly McGurn, Gillian Hamilton and Lindsay Kelly

Welcome

Emma Cuthbert, Chair Person welcomed everyone to the meeting. Opening prayer was led by Father Joe.

Matters arising from previous minutes

It was agreed that the minutes from each meeting would be on the school website only with a link being sent by text message to the parent forum.

Chair’s Report

Nothing to report at this time. The next chairs meeting scheduled to take place on 03.10.18.

Head Teachers Report

Mrs Fitzsimmons confirmed that Mrs Muirhead, one of the PSA’s, has retired. It was agreed to send flowers on behalf of the PP.

Further to the recent HMI inspection, Mrs Fitzsimmons gave a brief overview of several initiatives taking place within the school currently as part of the wider school improvement plan. These include:

* Class blogs
* working parties looking at the creation of e-portfolios from P1 – P7 that can then be handed off to high school
* Quality assurance calendar
* Workbooks being sent home for viewing prior to parents evening
* Staff involved in inter disciplinary learning
* Training P7’s to be ‘learning buddies’ – supporting literacy with younger pupils for short periods
* Ways in which to make ‘golden time’ more purposeful being examined
* Working group set up to look at homework. Mrs Cumming has asked for parent feedback via the school twitter feed

\*\*ACTION – Post link to school Twitter feed requesting homework feedback

Mrs Fitzsimmons touched on lots more going on within the school such as learning improvements for literacy and numeracy, health and well being focus, PATHS – a social and emotional well being programme for P1 – P7 being launched, Creative Therapies working with individual children giving extra support, Family Well Being service working with the school, individual pupils and their families a couple of days a week and the PSA’s providng extra support for literacy and numeracy making use of 5 minute boxes and repetitive learning.

There is also a STEAM room (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) currently under development, watch this space!

Church Report

Father Joe thanked the PP for the invitation to attend the PP meeting, stating that he was looking forward to getting to know everyone and building real connections between schools and the Parish. He reported that:

* Father Laurent from Uganda has recently came to the Parish, a most welcome addition
* There are currently 22 Altar servers in training
* The P4 meetings, ahead of next years First Holy Communion, has taken place
* There will be a prayer service scheduled soon commemorating the anniversary of the 1918 Catholic Education Act.
* The Jesse tree, which takes place every year to provide Christmas gifts for families within the Parish who may need this, will be starting earlier and finishing earlier this year. It’s hoped to have it up and running by mid November.
* Some discussion took place regarding ways to build connections between schools, young people and the Parish. Father Joe stated he is open to suggestions and would welcome any ideas anyone may have.

Fundraising Events

The P1-3 movie afternoon will take place on 5.10.18. Popcorn and juice will be provided and there will be no cost to pupils.

The P4-7 autumn discos will take place on 11.10.18 from 6pm. Each pupil will pay £1.

The Panto Fundraiser is being held in St Johns Church Hall on 09.11.18 and is an Old Skool disco. Although this is not a PP event, all monies raised will go directly to the school to help with the panto trip to Eastwood Theatre therefore we would encourage the parent forum to support this event.

\*\*ACTION – Emma to speak to Kayleigh regarding promoting the Old Skool disco via the school.

Equalities Forum

Louise Kennedy attended the local authority equalities forum as representative of St Marks PP. She stated that an aim of the forum was to have diversity champions in place by the end of the school year. Some discussion followed as to how the school and PP can support this. To be carried forward.

AOB

Some discussion took place regarding badminton. Louise Kennedy spoke about trying to arrange a visit from Olympic badminton players who had indicated they would be willing to come in and speak to the children.

\*\*ACTION – Louise to research the possibility of Badminton Scotland donating shuttles, nets etc to the school

\*\*ACTION – Mrs Fitzsimmons to speak to Gillian Hamilton regarding borrowing some badminton equipment prior to the Olympians visit and create suitable lessons.

Cluster Club –The annual cluster club quiz is confirmed for 01.02.19 in St Johns School. St Marks have never had a winning team, this is a matter of pride ☺

The first monthly winner of the cluster club 100 club was a St Mark’s parent, Susan D. Congratulations to Susan.

\*\*ACTION – Congratulate winning parent on facebook page

Lockerbie – The P7 trip to Lockerbie Manor will take place in November this year. Miss Healy will be issuing the kit list in the next few days.

\*\*ACTION – Let parents know if they have any old clothes from previous residential trips that are no longer required, these can be handed in school for use by this years P7’s. Mary’s Meals are visiting the Parish on 7.10.18 and would welcome any other clothes, textiles, bedding etc

Some discussion took place surrounding the defibrillator campaign currently going on in the town, and how the PP can support this. It was agreed that we will support this initiative, possibly in conjunction with Heart Start. To be carried forward.

Some more discussion took place regarding the old Arthurlie nursery building and the car parking around the school. Mrs Fitzsimmons stated she was unaware of any plans for the old nursery as of yet but in the meantime parents and carers are welcome to use the car park when dropping off or picking up from school.

Finally, HUGE thanks to Dawn Smith for doing a sterling job of keeping the kiddiewinks entertained with her Hallowe’en arts and crafts!

NEXT MEETING 08.11.18 2PM – 4PM, FAMILY ROOM