



Maidenhill Primary School Parent Council Zoom Meeting

Tuesday 24th November 2020 7.30pm

Present: Lindsay Brown (Chair), Alasdair McDonald (HT), Alison Shaw (DHT), Lesley Atkin (PT), Wendy Nixon, Leigh O'Donnell, Manpreet Virdee, Lee de Franca, David Bickley, Lauren Kendrick, Claire Lamont, Susan Hamill, Sabrina Chalmers, Alison Langley, Amanda Johnston, Gillian McNeill, Ali Akbar, Lauren Kendrick, Diane Rutherford, Jenny Boyd,

Apologies: Unfortunately, Mr Edge and Mhairi Hill were unable to join due to technical issues with the zoom link.

1. Welcome to Jenny Boyd, Diane Rutherford and Mhairi Hill. Angie Donnachie left the parent council and was thanked for her support.
2. Previous meeting minutes discussed, many actions are not relevant given the current restrictions and we will come back to them in the future.
 - All staff employed since the last meeting are French speaking, so previous concerns over lack of French teaching are no longer an issue.
 - *David will set up easy fundraising and recruitment drive/reminders (Alison, Leigh and Susan to support with admin / bank details).*
3. Chairperson's report – available upon request from maidenhillparentcouncil@gmail.com
 - All staff, teachers, admin and support team thanked for their hard work and positivity during lockdown and the home learning. Maidenhill was used to support the free school meals and for children of key workers. The parent council were thanked for the feedback provided to the school over lockdown, and in planning for potential blended learning.
 - School thanked for smooth transition for nursery and p1, and all new pupils to the school, and those parents and carers were welcomed.
 - The council were thanked for providing the Mearnskirk bus and parents encouraged to use this for their children if living in this area.
 - The parent council were pleased to provide funds for a new school garden and the fundraising team involved in the Halloween extravaganza / pumpkin hunt were thanked. The catering team were

thanked for providing the Halloween biscuits, funded by the parent council.

- Claire and all the fundraising team were thanked for their amazing ideas (some for next year too) and hard work for the Christmas fundraising.
- Wendy and Lee were thanked for trying to source ties or polo shirts for p1 children, which were unfortunately not available, but hopefully can be provided next year along with celebrations for the first p7 class.
- Lindsay thanked Mr McDonald, all staff, parent council and all school families for the support given to her and her family and for the collection used for a plant and to be used for jewellery for her girls.

4. Head Teacher's report – available upon request from schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk

5. Treasury report

- Laura Barley has reviewed the accounts as an independent examiner and was thanked for this review.
- Total income last year was £1290, and the profit was £764.
- £500 was given to outdoor equipment for the school garden and £105 given for Halloween biscuits leaving £159 currently in the bank.

6. Fundraising

- Claire Lamont has been leading a fundraising subgroup to launch festive fundraising activities given the current restrictions (all virtual).
- Santa dash
 - David shared fantastic videos.
 - Laura Barley's company (Bump to Birthdays) has kindly offered to donate medals for the Santa dash up to £150 so the calendar of festive events will have no outgoing costs.
- Xmas crafts
 - Lauren outlined different events to try and engage all year groups that will be available online. She and Manpreet will be uploading gingerbread house videos.
- Zoom parties
 - Jenny explained these will be about 20 minutes long run by parent volunteers on different days of the week involving party games, scavenger hunts etc.
- Winter wonderland
 - Diane explained this will be over 3 areas (Maidenhill, Paidmyre and Mearns Kirk) like the pumpkin trail, and involve some houses displaying a letter to make a xmas phrase during the 19-24th December holiday week.
- Lee/Wendy gave an update that a group have collated prizes from the community. A flyer will be provided with the list of prizes.

- *Each fundraising sub group will request to this group the number of prizes and what they will be given for. David will contact East Ren golf course and Lee is waiting on responses from the builders at Maidenhill.*
- Benefits of just giving (fees etc) vs bank transfer
 - Just giving
 - Has a fee of 20p per donation and 1.9% interchange fees for card processing costs. If charitable status is obtained in the future, then gift aid can be claimed and if we sell tickets for events using event brite, the 2 sites can be used together. A target can be set on this and updates given in bulletins as to progress towards the target.
 - Bank transfer
 - All money goes to school, but it was felt this could make parents feel under pressure to give more, and need to set up a bank transfer, whereas just giving can be anonymous and the amount not disclosed.
- Decision : Just giving
 - Families can take part in all the festive virtual activities without needing to donate – giving money is optional
 - The page could be left open through January as well, as December can be an expensive month.
 - *Leigh and Susan to set up just giving page, with an initial target of £500 using parent council email ideally by Thursday ahead of the start of the fundraising activities.*
- Creating a wish list or specific items to work towards
 - The possibility of donating to charity was discussed, but Mr McDonald plans to request that although the generosity at Christmas of families is greatly appreciated, this year, he would request families make donations to charities rather than cards and presents into school. Therefore, it was felt the festive fundraising should raise funds for the school.
- Mr McDonald suggested two priorities for fundraising
 - **Books** – to help promote a love of books, and keep the library upgraded and excited with a growing school. Also, to allow class libraries to be set up. Donations of good condition books from parents are always welcome, but, the funds will be used for new books, ordered by the children.
 - **P7** – first P7 for Maidenhill, and new to the school. This year will be different due to the restrictions in place, and so the school want to make this special for them and plans will be led by the children, nearer the time, as to the best way to celebrate finishing primary school. A possibility of joining with other

schools for some activities will depend on restrictions at the time, and will depend what the children wish to do too.

- Information will be going out each Friday about the fundraising, with the first being the Santa Dash poster this Friday.
- Facebook page can be shared in class whatsapp groups (*Mhairi Hill to be asked if she would mind sharing to p7*).
- Mr McDonald thanked the fundraising team for all their hard work. The children will really appreciate all the activities and the school are very grateful for the support. Thank you to Claire for leading this group.

7. Questions from class reps

- Susan raised questions from p4 requesting more feedback/acknowledgement of homework to help raise enthusiasm, and a request for it to be posted earlier (before 6pm) if possible. Mr McDonald will feed this back, and explained there is a working group looking at the process for homework that will be gathering feedback from parents. Using google classroom is obviously still a new process and he encourage parents to email the school with any concerns.
- Unfortunately, this year antibullying week was the same as Book week in Scotland, and the school focussed this year on literacy book week activities. However, antibullying is looked at continually, and in particular recently through friendship and relationship assemblies.
- There will be a surprise nativity this year – a film, free of charge to watch, as a xmas gift to the parents from the school!

8. AGM

A short AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th December via zoom. New members will be very welcome, changes made to the committee if required and class and nursery reps will be appointed.

A note to go in the school newsletter, and parent council to write a note in class whatsapp groups, to let parents know and invite new members. Mhairi Hill to be asked if she would mind doing this for p7. Parent council email for anyone wishing to get in contact is maidenhillparentcouncil@gmail.com

Next meeting – AGM Tuesday 8th December 7.30pm