



Date : 4th October 2017

Ref : KJM T017

TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parents/Carers,

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Many of you will be aware that Curriculum for Excellence promotes positive partnerships with a range of people for the benefit of the children in school. Such partnerships add to the wider life of the school and are a huge support to both teaching staff and pupils alike.

Whilst we look outwardly to the local community to work with the school in partnership on a number of projects, themes and events, undoubtedly the most important partnerships we have are with you our parent body.

The Parent Council of Tolsta Primary School has for many years added enormously to the life and work of the school. Through its fundraising efforts it has raised money for a variety of projects which have benefited the school and its pupils enormously. Its existence has been at the heart of fundraising for the school and its varying needs from year to year. It has also taken an active role in driving forward improvements across the school. However, the Parent Council belongs to the parents of children in Tolsta Primary School and school staff cannot work in isolation for the benefit of the children. I would therefore urge each and every one of you to become involved in the wider life and work of the school, either by attending Parent Council meetings or assisting as a Parent Volunteer within the school.

In this coming session we have a number of projects ongoing which may be of interest to you and I would ask you to give these careful consideration.

This year our school is focusing on improving the learning and teaching of technologies. Part of this project is to implement, along with Sgoil a' Bhac a Masterclass provision and to focus on specific skills which pupils will be given opportunities to develop throughout the year. We are again looking for willing parents/grandparents who have particular skills in the areas of the Technologies e.g. food technologies / textiles / ICT / media / digital video and audio / graphics etc and who would perhaps be willing to come in and assist teaching staff in the delivery of these programmes at Masterclass.

As Technologies is a large project for us, we would invite the Parent Council to also undertake some fundraising ventures for us with a view to raising funds for some much needed Technologies equipment, particularly in the areas of construction kits etc. Though we have some material of this nature in the school, it is very expensive and we would love to be in a position to purchase more if that were possible.

We look to engage with you as active partners in your children's learning. I would encourage you all to communicate with class teachers in the Home-School diaries about the work they are doing in school, about their homework and about those activities that your children enjoy which relate to their wider achievements. As children's participation in activities outside of school is an area we will be having to report on this information, regularly communicated to the class teachers will be hugely appreciated by myself and the teaching staff.





We hope to hold a curriculum evening in the school during November, where we can share with you some work relating to Internet Safety. The 360° Safe Audit of the school which was carried out last session by Miss Macdonald in her capacity as Acting Head Teacher of Tolsta Primary School was a large piece of work and one aspect of that is that we are now looking for volunteers who would be willing to work with teaching staff and members across the local community to ensure that e-safety is high on our agenda and that we are able to educate our pupils and parents appropriately and keep all our pupils safe from harm. This commitment would amount to no more than two meetings a year as part of an e-safety committee.

As parents, each of you have a role to play as we work together for the benefit of the children. Classes are currently covering a range of projects and themes and at this particular time in education, where developing the young workforce provides us with a huge agenda in teaching children about the world of work and workforce skills, we look to you our parent body, to assist us as best you can. We would love to build up a bank of volunteers who would be willing to come in to classes and tell the children about your own jobs and the skills which you need to undertake these jobs. To hear from people doing real jobs is a far more powerful exercise than to listen to teachers telling them about what different people do when at work.

Finally, we seek to increase the number of parent volunteers we have who we can call on to help us when taking pupils out on school visits in and around the community. I recognize that a great majority of our parent body are employed and are not always available to help us in this way, but perhaps there are those of you who have some time on your hands during the day. We would love to hear from you and we would love to be helped by you. It would be particularly helpful to us to know how many of you hold your MIDAS certificates and also how many of you have a PVG for volunteering in the school. It would also be helpful to hear from those of you who would be willing to complete the PVG Disclosure forms for school so that you may volunteer.

These different ways are only a selection of ways in which you the parent body can work in partnership with school staff for the benefit of your child's learning. I am well aware that Tolsta Primary School has long had a reputation for good learning being at the heart of the school and the points I have outlined above offer parents real scope to come in and work with us and to further enhance the learning which goes on in our school.

In order to be able to ascertain which areas parents could help us with I would be grateful if you could complete the checklist below and return it to the school by Thursday 12th October 2017. It is my hope that most parents would be able to consider helping us in at least one of these ways

Leis gach durachd,

Kirsteen J. Maclean
Head Teacher





NAME: _____

PARENT OF : _____ CLASS: _____

Please tick all which are appropriate and return this form to the school office by Thursday 12th October 2017

- I would be willing to support the work of the Parent Council by attending Parent Council Meetings.
- I would be willing to help teaching staff with Technologies during one or all Masterclass weeks which Tolsta School pupils will be participating in, which is being held in Sgoil a' Bhac across this school session.
- I would be willing to help the pupils of Tolsta Primary School develop the school garden.
- I would be willing to assist in organising fundraising ventures for the benefit of the school / Sgoil Àraich and its pupils.
- I would be willing to ensure that I work closely in partnership with my child's class teacher for the benefit of his/her learning.
- I would be willing to serve on the e-safety committee of Tolsta Primary School
- I would be willing to come in and share information about my job with class teachers / Nursery staff and their pupils.
- I would be willing to complete a PVG form for the school so that I might help out as a volunteer.
- I already hold my PVG certificate to work as a volunteer with the school.
- I hold my MIDAS certificate and would be willing to help as a minibus driver on school trips.

Please note below any other ideas which you may have for helping the school and its staff across the session. We are open to suggestions and look forward to working with as many of you as we can.



Ag Ionnsachadh Còmhla – Learning Together



Tolsta School
Bun Sgoil Tholastaidh



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