Largoward Parent Council Meeting

# Parent Council Meeting

**Date**: Tuesday 23 January 2024

**Time**: 18:00

**Location**: School

# In Attendance

Chris (Chairman), Donna Bain (Headteacher), Stuart (Secretary), Adam

Apologies – Rebecca (Treasurer), Leanne, Adam, Jen, Jodie

**Chairman’s Report**

Chris highlighted the effort and excellent success of the Christmas Fayre – well attended and great funds raised.

Also noted the Christmas concert, appreciate all the effort that went in to planning and running – it was a great event.

Final comment to highlight that all the children seem very happy in the school after the holidays with a positive atmosphere.

**Secretary’s Report**

Notes have been shared.

Actions have been added to the agenda and/or covered in upcoming notes.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Update from prior to the holidays, the Christmas Fayre raised around £1,445 prior to costs of around £90.

Cheque for the hall has been handed over to the hall committee.

# Headteacher Report

**School Roll and P1 Enrolments**

The school roll is now sitting at 16 pupils across P2-7. So far, we have received four applications for primary 1 in August, but they have all made placing requests to other schools. We project we will remain at a single P1-7 class next session with an approximate school roll of 15 pupils (one pupil in the village is anticipated to attend and there are two primary 7’s moving on in the summer).

This is assuming no further children leave prior to the new term.

It was also noted that there is a new policy for deferring P1 start date and can be done if the child turns 5 any day after the first day of term. This is likely to have an effect on numbers as nursery is also now funded for this change.

**Open Afternoon**

Our next open afternoon is scheduled for Tuesday 6th February 2-3pm and coincides with Safer Internet Day. We will also have a Scottish theme to the afternoon with pupils sharing their poems if they want to. We hope to see lots of parents and carers in school to participate in learning and activities with their child. Information to follow on the school newsletter.

**LEANS**

The pupils are now well into their work on the LEANS project – this focuses on helping children to understand neurodiversity. Parents can follow this link to find out more <https://www.ed.ac.uk/salvesen-research/leans>

Mrs. Macmillan has been working on our school website with a dedicated SfL section - [Support For Learning | Largoward Primary School (glowscotland.org.uk)](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fi/largowardps/support-for-learning/)

**Anti-Bullying Policy**

The draft policy needs to be shared with the wider parent forum for feedback. We will aim to share this by the end of the month so we can discuss the feedback at our next meeting and then progress to working on our equalities policy as planned.

The next policy to be discussed is the Equality and diversity policy – ACTION to see if this should be added to the next meeting agenda.

**Natural Connections**

Natural connections work will commence after the February break with Mrs. Marwood on Thursday mornings. We intend to start in our school grounds, expand into the local community and we are planning a trip to Lochore Meadows for the summer term. We hope all P2/3 pupils will achieve their foundation award and all P4-7 pupils should achieve level 1 before the summer. We want to ensure all pupils have their NEC cards so we can access free public transport – Mrs. Stewart will follow up with any parents who have not applied for the cards.

A great resource highlighted by Rebecca was the flexi-bus which enables many more trip locations and ease of access with the NEC cards as only need to cover staff costs. Hiring buses can cost upwards of £300 even for local travel.

**P4 National Standardised Assessments**

This month our P4 pupils will be completing their National Standardised Assessments. I am happy to share the results of the assessments with parents and to discuss any questions parents may have.

**School Improvement Plan and PEF Interventions**

At the meeting Mrs Bain update the Parent Council on the progress being made against our two priorities and our numeracy PEF intervention. We continue to make good progress, particularly with our PEF intervention and inclusion priority.

Good progress from staff and teachers including writing, technologies, languages (English, L2 French and BSL) – these have all been differentiated for the age groups.

A lot of emphasis on outdoor education and the staff have lots of ideas on this – garden work to support. Also ensuring that there is inclusive learning for all the needs of the children and accessible resources.

The PEF is particularly focused on the uppers school number work - there are resources available for parents to understand how the children are being taught. Option for further sessions with the parents is an option.

**Important Dates This Term**

* Tuesday 6th February – 2-3pm – Open Afternoon
* Wednesday 14th February – Inset Day
* Thursday 15th February – Holiday
* Friday 15th February – Holiday
* Thursday 7th March – World Book Day
* Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day
* Tuesday 19th March – 3.30-5.30pm – Parents Nights
* Thursday 21st March – 5-7pm – Parents Nights
* Wednesday 27th March – Easter Disco at Lawhead
* Thursday 28th March – Easter assembly and end of term 3

**P7 Transition**

There will be an initial start on this later this term – a meeting for the P7’s with the Rector and depute from Madras and interaction with the other P7’s at Lawhead. The summer term will see fortnightly visits to Lawhead.

**Additional school funding**

Mrs Bain was delighted that the school has received a £1,400 donation from a local trust to support the rural school have similar experiences to larger schools. This will help fund trips, theatre and a new mud kitchen (made by the men’s shed).

She has also applied for a further donation from the Fife Educational trust.

# Other Items

# Residential

We discussed potential other upcoming costs and flagged that the Parent council is always approachable to help given the bank balance. One that was highlighted was the P7 residential later in the year. Currently there are two P6’s who are likely to attend. We agreed to increase our donation to £75 per head with a total cost likely around £230pp. Travel costs are relatively low this year due to the large number of P7’s at lawhead.

# School Garden

Further discussion on the work to do here and things need to buy.

ACTION Mrs Bain to get lists of jobs to be done in the garden

ACTION Parent council to look at date for garden tidy in better weather (pick up at next meeting)

ACTION Parent council to look at shed purchase

ACTION Parent council to check if greenhouse can be donated/acquired

ACTION Parent council to look at bike rack.

# Easter

Kate has agreed to run the easter egg hunt this year. The children will work in houses to compete and solve the puzzle around the village. Three staff members will be around to assist.

Agreed Wed 27th March 2-3pm.

ACTION – arrange egg purchase \*16 (including 1 x Dairy free)

ACTION – Mrs Bain to invite any new potential P1’s\*

\*Review at next meeting

# Pupil council

The pupil council are keen to attend the next parent council meeting –

ACTION Mrs Bain to arrange attendance with Parent council (date below)

# Community council

Stuart updated the group on website/fb page – shared details with Mrs Bain to help grow connections and share info. Option to be discussed on pupil council attendance there. (NEXT meeting scheduled Thurs 21 March 7-9pm).

# Homework

The topic of homework was raised. It was confirmed pupils can submit on teams or on physical copy. A request for homework jotters to be issued was agreed – ACTION for Mrs Bain to arrange.

There is an IT help section on the school website resources and GLOW – options for support session in school also offered.

Mrs Bain has suggested that a homework club could also be a possibility every few weeks (lunchtime) – to be discussed further with children and teachers/parents.

# Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed to be Tuesday 12 March at 6.00 pm.

ACTION Stuart to follow-up and confirm date/agenda.