

# Parents Council

## MINUTES OF PARENTS COUNCIL MEETING : 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024



		Action
1	<p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance: Emily (Head teacher), Derek (deputy head), Sofia (Chair), Laura (Vice Chair &amp; minutes), Nicola, Eilidh and Ernest</li> <li>Apologies: Lindsey King and Gayle Stevenson</li> <li>New members: Eilidh and Ernest joined the meeting for the first time.</li> </ul>	Sofia & Emily confirmed
2	<p>Minutes from last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sofia will give £100 to the school for Seesaw.</li> <li>Poster was sent for people to see. This can be sent to new members.</li> <li>The parent's council email address needs to be changed. The poster will need to be amended</li> </ul>	Laura
3	<p>Head teacher update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground markings: Emily said that school had shared the marking ideas from the brochure with the children through the relevant Pupil Voice Groups (PVG). The children have provided great feedback. Emily and Derek have agreed to cost this out before the next parents council meeting.</li> <li>Just after the holidays the school was donated £1,300 from the bowling club. Emily suggested that a portion of this could go towards the playground.</li> <li>School events:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Book Day is coming soon in March.</li> <li>The school plan to do an event for Comic Relief.</li> <li>PVG groups are planning a science technology week where they will have guest speakers along at the busy finish on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.</li> </ol> </li> <li>There has been a greater focus on writing this year which will continue onto the following term as this has been highlighted as an area for development.</li> <li>ASSIST team have been in to support teachers with children with additional needs.</li> <li>The school received a visit from the Young Carers charity. They will also be available at parent's night providing information. Emily shared that it was interesting to hear that there could be more support available to some of the children in Thornton. Young Carers provides support for a wide range of situations.</li> <li>Quality assurance: The local learning partnerships (made up from other local schools) will be coming into Thornton next week to help the school assess what their improvement priorities are.</li> <li>The group agreed that Seesaw has been positive this year.</li> <li>Sofia raised a question about recent Fife Council survey (Parent Wise Survey 2014) and asked how the response will be communicated back to parents. Emily agreed to share the survey results if she is able to.</li> </ul>	Emily
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After school club: Thornton now have a lack of childcare options which could cause an issue for the school in the future.</li> <li>Sofia was in touch with Fife council, Laura was in touch with transport and Carlton after school club who were unable to help.</li> <li>Emily shared that she met with Gary (Peattie) on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. He spoke positively that there was a chance that Thornton and Pitteuchar East schools could merge to provide after school support. Gary said that he would send out</li> </ul>	Emily & Sofia

	<p>a survey to parents. Emily had been hopeful that this would have already been sent out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sofia said she would contact Gary again to increase pressure. Derek said that he had also done this separately.</li> <li>• As part of this topic Emily mentioned the new school catchment boundaries (information had been sent to all parents). The main impact upon Thornton is that Lochty view estate will fall under the catchment for Thornton Primary School. Emily wanted to stress that more pupils in Thornton is a positive thing for the school as it strengthens the case to keep the staffing levels. She was aware that some parents had concerns.</li> <li>• The Breakfast club was raised separately with Emily and Derek after the meeting and this can be discussed at the next parent's council meeting.</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>priorities and strategies for engagement</b></p> <p><b>Cost of a school day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group agreed to have an opportunity to give away school uniform on the last 3 days of school. The school will support this by offering no school uniform on those days.</li> <li>• Eilidh suggested that it would be good to have a school clothes rail (this is done in other schools). The group agreed this would be positive all year round.</li> <li>• Emily and Derek will consider a good space for a clothes rail, where people will feel comfortable and will communicate this with parents.</li> <li>• The group agreed that the Fareshare initiative could be better publicised. Some parents didn't know that it still existed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Parents council promotion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group agreed to promote the parents council through poster and at the upcoming parents evening. Laura agreed to help do this on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March and Nicola and Eilidh agreed to help on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March.</li> <li>• Sofia said she would get a poster for the parents evening.</li> <li>• We will gather information through 2 questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What do you like best about our school?</li> <li>2. What would you like the parents council to support you with?</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Information will be gathered through conversation, poster notes and individualised feedback through QR code (which can be anonymous) which will be available on the night. Derek and Emily agreed to provide resources to gather the feedback.</p>	<p>Emily &amp; Derek</p> <p>Eilidh, Nicola, Laura &amp; Sofia</p> <p>Emily &amp; Derek</p>
6	<p><b>Fundraising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas fayre didn't happen in 2023.</li> <li>• We need to raise funds for the school playground.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the school and parents council could approach local businesses who could sponsor different parts of the playground.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the pupils could make a video. Derek and Emily agreed this could be part of the school day. Laura agreed that she could help on a Wednesday if that was possible.</li> <li>• If there was a video we could possibly do a crowd fundraiser to raise money through the school using social media to promote this.</li> </ul>	<p>Laura, Emily and Derek</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derek and Emily will provide costs before action is taken. They can also break it down per item which might make it more appealing to business to sponsor.</li> <li>• Teas and coffees can be sold at sports day on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. Laura agreed to help with this.</li> </ul>	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of next meeting would be Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of May at 6pm in school</li> </ul>	
18	AOB: nothing highlighted. Sofia closed the meeting and thanked people for their contribution	