

## **Welcome – Fozia**

### PC Objectives

- 1) To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils and which provide opportunities for fun and to broaden children's horizons.
- 2) To work in partnership with school staff to ensure that the Pollokshields Primary School is welcoming and feels inclusive for all parents.
- 3) To promote partnership between the school and parents/carers to support the childrens' learning and welfare and to and strengthen the school community.

### Responsibilities

- 1) Engage with the Parent Council WhatsApp group and attend meetings when possible.
- 2) Help with fundraising, organising events and any other activities that benefit the school community.

We are an informal group of parents who give whatever time we can manage at any given time. The What's App group is sometimes busy, sometimes quiet. We recognise that everyone has busy lives and many responsibilities outside of the Parent Council. Family and health come first and participation in the Parent Council should not be a stressful experience. If it is, then maybe we as a collective are trying to do too much. It should hopefully be an enjoyable experience!

We hold meetings roughly monthly and they tend to be fairly informal. The time depends on availability. We ask that Parent Council members try to attend meetings or send apologies.

There will periodically be requests for members to volunteer to attend training sessions, such as First Aid Training or recruitment training (for a new Headteacher). We also ask for volunteers from within the Parent Council to help at school events.

We communicate with each other via What's App outside of meetings. There is a Parent Council gmail account to which all members will be given access. We also have a facebook group and a section on the school website, onto which the minutes of our meetings are uploaded. The school is also fantastic at sending out communications on our behalf.

As we are representing the school community it is important that we talk to other parents so that we can make sure that their views are heard. We should be forming connections within the Parent Council and within the wider school community. We organise events that facilitate this. It is therefore very important that we remember that the Parent Council is not all about business, it is meant to be fun!

## **Chair's Report – Saskia**

Events - A huge thank you to all parents/carers and teachers who helped to organise, donated food and helped on the day or attended. Despite living in Glasgow, we've been very lucky with the weather for all events. Long may this continue!

### Halloween Party and AGM last year

- Very well attended (AGM and event in general)
- Worked well at BG but we were lucky with the weather so we decided to hold it indoors this year.
- Everything by donation (meant the cakes disappeared quickly and we ran out- more organised this year) + £210

### Winter Arts Festival

- School looked amazing, lit up thanks to Fozia's brother and the beautiful artwork by the children.
- Performances were lovely. Thanks to Kate.
- Fundraised + £500
- Logistically disjointed split between two playgrounds which led to the decision to hold the Gala Bazaar at the BG.
- Food area was too crowded and it was complicated having school selling some and PC others- better this year if PC does all refreshments in a larger area.

### Spring Fling

- thank you to Fozia for the name! New event.
- Fundraised: +£370
- Fun and well attended event. Keen to hold again next year. Hopefully add more activities/stalls related to nature/growing.
- Cake raffle was the highlight- thanks to Kate for the idea (and being a human megaphone on the day) and to parents and businesses who donated such incredible cakes.

### Gala Bazaar

Held at the BG for the first time and run jointly with school. This worked well as PC and school were responsible for different aspects.

Very successful- well attended and families seemed to have a good time. Nice all being in the one site and in a green area.

This was our biggest fundraiser - made +£1,380

### P1 Welcome

It was nice to have an opportunity to welcome new parents after drop off on the first day of school and to give them a chance to get to know each other. PC provided hot drinks, cake and biscuits. Thank you to Square Park coffee for opening up especially for us.

### Sports Day

Sports Day team headed by Jethro and Mr Pollock – Thank you (and also to Square Park Coffee)

Over 140 children enjoyed multiple sports led by local clubs. Numbers were perhaps lower than last year due to the event being postponed and more competing activities being on this year.

The bake sale in Square Park on the day that it was meant to be held was very successful- raised a lot of money for the Pakistan Emergency fund and donations of goods for the local foodbank. Sounded like families had a great time!

Hoping to build on relationships with local clubs. Everyone seemed to have a great time and nice to include parents as it was on a weekend.

Happy with the continued emphasis on participation rather than competition.

Much easier to manage on only one site.

### Fundraising

We're keen to ensure that events don't just feel like fundraisers. The main aim is to bring the school community together to have a good time. We therefore try to keep prices as low as possible though and make lots of activities for children, and sometimes also refreshments and entrance free, wherever possible.

We do however need funds to run events and to be able to support school with activities such as trips, so there needs to be an element of fundraising at least at some events. We often do this through asking for donations and we try to make the fundraising element of the event optional if possible, so that families can still attend and have a good time without needing to spend much money.

We often manage to secure external funding which helps to keep costs low. A massive thank you to our Vice chair Nathalie who has been in charge of sourcing and applying for funding this year. She has put a huge amount of work into this and as a result, the Parent Council has been far better funded this year than ever before!

Lots of local businesses also very generously donate food and drinks etc for our events, which really cuts down costs. In addition, Urban Roots and Ready Steady Grow have generously donated plants, bulbs and materials for activities this year. In return we put the names of businesses and organisations on event advertising and we give them thank you cards after the event.

Parent Council funds are used to fund events and activities for children. The biggest expenses this year have been a donation of £1,600 to the school for coaches for the Lion King trip and £800 for Community Club.

### **Extra activities**

#### Community Club

Enjoyed by children- attendance was generally around 100.

Not many children targeted by PEF money attended so school wouldn't feel able to use PEF funds in future.

Expensive as mostly run by teachers.

Felt more like a school activity club as parents weren't involved much this time. Last time there were activities for parents too so lots stayed and lots of parents helped to run it.

If we run it again it would need to go back to the old model but depends on parental capacity.

### Apparel exchange

Thank you to Laura for getting this up and running. She liaised with Apparel Xchange and school to set up the monthly Shields Shop which collects and gives away preloved school uniform to parents. Apparel Xchange also give packs of clothes to families who they think would benefit. This will continue in partnership between Laura and school.

### Goodbyes and Hellos

- We said goodbye to Miss Smith and Ms McAnish- we wished them well on their maternity leaves and PC gave Hotel Chocolat chocolates and homemade cards- from our own money not PC funds.

-We would like to warmly welcome Mrs Mcelhone, Acting Head and Mrs Anderson, Acting Depute to our school.

### **Plan for next year - Saskia**

This year we tried to have a sub-committee for each event and activity. This meant far too many what's app groups so this year we would like to try something slightly different.

We plan to have three committees next year:

- 1) Sports Committee- which includes sports day and building on links with local clubs to provide more sporting opportunities locally for PPS children.
- 2) Events Committee- which will take the lead on organising school events and liaising with school and will ask for help from the rest of the PC when appropriate.
- 3) Liaison Committee- which will liaise with school and the local community about any matters that might arise, such as school involvement in local events.

This will hopefully spread the load and ensure that members can channel our enthusiasm towards aspects of PC activity that most interest us. It will also mean that what's app doesn't get overloaded as each committee will have a separate what's app group in addition to the main Parent Council group. Parent Council members will be encouraged to join and engage with at least one committee.

### **Treasurer's Report – Sam/Rachel**

- 1) Year start and end balances
- 2) Principal income and expenditure
- 3) Approval of the accounts

### **Questions from parents - Fozia**

### **Headteacher's Update – Mrs McElhone**

### **Selection of new members – Fozia**

Ballot if required (maximum 16 parent members)

### **Office bearers - Fozia**

- 1) Secretary
- 2) Treasurer
- 3) Vice Chair
- 4) Chair