**Wallacewell Primary**

**Parent Council**

**Monday 2nd October**

**Present:** Laura Davidson (HT), Emily Clarke (Chairperson) Ross Nisbet (Vice Chair) Caryn Smith (Secretary) Elizabeth Smith (Minute/secretary) Valentina Vagka ( Treasurer)

1. **Welcome & Introductions -** HT welcomed all.
2. **Previous Minutes –** Minutes agreed. HT will share on the Parent Council section of the school website.
3. **Bank Account Update** - Caryn had now visited Bank of Scotland and details were given on how to open a business account. This seems relatively straightforward and can all be done online. Treasurer will attend to this. It was suggested that there be a number of signatories to ensure ease of operation.
4. **Headteacher Update** –

Family Engagement - HT reported that the family quiz night had been a great success with many positive comments from parents and friends. A bingo night is proposed for next term.

HT also gave feedback on money in the bank from previous PC.

HT has also been in communication with Jean Miller (Head of Service), Douglas Hutchison (Director of Education) and Samir Sharma (QIO) regarding the big challenges faced by the school.

HT also informed the PC about forthcoming consultations on inclusion and homework policies.

HT had been contacted by Caledonian Football Team with regard to possibly forming a partnership with the school. Football matches could be organised with free family tickets. They might become involved in helping improve the pitch if this were possible.

A graffiti artist had visited the school and one stairwell had now been completed. The second will be completed soon. Pictures to follow on the school Twitter page once completed.

HT shared that trips have been highlighted in various parental consultations as an area for further development. Miss Davidson has already shared with families in recent newsletters and the sharing of consultation feedback, the steps the school have taken to tackle the concern.

Info provided to families this session from consultation feedback –

*We had had lots of enquires about educational trips at the end of last session. Educational trips and experiences are something we wish to look at more closely this year. Planned trips can provide fantastic learning experiences for our young people. When planning for educational trips there a number of things that must be considered including cost and bus availability. We are restricted to the use of only GCC approved coach companies. Being mindful of the ‘Cost of the School Day’ and the impact of the cost of living on families we would also like to keep the cost of trips low/free where possible. This will involve some creativity on our part. We have already booked and paid for all pupils to attend the Panto next session. Every class will get a visit to the Science Centre or similar in school experience and we are currently planning an end of session trip for all classes.*

Further updates about trips will be provided in the monthly school newsletters.

1. **Fundraising –**

Emily (Chairperson) had approached numerous local supermarkets and is awaiting response from them with regard to supporting the PC in our fundraising efforts.

PC discussed fundraising ideas including ‘In It to Win It.’

The subject of the Christmas Fayre was also discussed. This will take place on 8th December from 15.30 till 17.30. It was proposed that the PC could have a stall. Miss Kelly (DHT) has this in hand. Various activities were discussed e.g. Letter to Santa. PC will be organising Santa Letters this year. Letters to parents who might wish to request a letter from Santa for their child will be sent out from school on November 10th should be returned by November 24th. This would enable letters to be drafted up and be ready to be distributed at Christmas Fayre. A small gift to go along with letters was also discussed e.g. a chocolate coin. Photos with Santa were also discussed.

PC ‘Chuck it in a Bucket’ fundraiser will take place Friday the 10th of November.

HT indicated that as there a number of active parents/carers in the school that perhaps some fundraising football activity could be organised for the summer term. This will be discussed at a later date.

1. **Halloween Disco -** This will take place on October 26th. This has been organised by school staff and is all in hand.
2. **Grand Challenges** - Our first concern as PC at this moment is the pitch. This is a health and safety concern for our children as discussed at our last meeting. It was proposed that the best way to initiate discussion is to invite Christina Cannon and Jean Miller to our next meeting. Ross (Vice Chair) has volunteered to take this forward. It was agreed that if this is done soon it would give them time to be in attendance by fitting it into their schedules, hopefully. Ross is happy to do this and HT has offered to provide him with appropriate information where it is possible for her to do that. An initial meeting such as this might be a precursor to other discussions in the future.
3. **Date of next meeting -**

13th November 2023. This will be a closed meeting for Office Bearers only.

**Future meeting dates –**

Monday 15.01.23

Monday 19.02.24

Monday 18.03.24

Monday 29.04.24

Monday 27.05.24

Monday 17.05.24

**9. AOCB -**

Concerns were raised about the ongoing issues with the car parking. The school regularly liaise with the community police about the issue.

Kirsty Moir had sent a photo of proposals for posters to be displayed pitch side. PC thanked her for these. Kirsty will go ahead and get these made up and hand into the school when ready.