



St Mary's Parent Partnership - Online Meeting

January 24th 2022

Present:

Mrs Guthrie (HT)	J Sheridan (Vice Secretary)
Mrs Blicow (DHT)	S O'Brien (Vice Treasurer)
Mrs MacDonald (DHT)	L Owens
Canon T Boyle	J McCafferty
E Fitzharris (Parish Rep)	J Ferrie
Councillor G Brooks	V Bonnar
Councillor E Robertson	J Boyd
M Cassidy (Chairperson)	M Purdue
D McLaughlin (Vice Chairperson)	C Burrows
V Pollard (Treasurer)	H McGivern
G Henry (Secretary) - minutes	

Apologies:

G Forbes (Active Schools)	S McBride
C O'Donnell	

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - M Cassidy welcomed everyone and apologies were noted. A special welcome was extended to Canon Tom and our local Councillors for joining us this evening. We joined Mrs Fitzharris in an opening prayer.
2. **HT Update** - Mrs Guthrie updated us on a number of items:

Thank you

Mrs Guthrie thanked the PP for all the treats for the children at Christmas - the children had lots of fun, despite restrictions. Thank you also for the doughnuts sent to the staff - they were very much enjoyed and appreciated.

Covid Cases

As of Monday 24th Jan, there were 10 children off with Covid. Last week, P1 and P6 were badly hit with covid absences but, thankfully, most children are starting to come

back now. Luckily, there have not been many staff absences, unlike some of the other schools in the authority.

P1 Enrolment

Enrolments for P1 took place online last week but Mrs Guthrie has not yet received any information about numbers for next session.

Active Schools

Mrs Blincow and Mrs Guthrie met with Gary from Active Schools last week. There will be several lunch time and after school clubs taking place again this term. Information will be going out to parents over the coming weeks.

Bikeability

Mrs Guthrie is still waiting to find out if the school can get training for support staff with the Bikeability programme.

Congratulations

Mrs McGlashan has welcomed a beautiful baby girl. We pass on our best wishes and congratulations to all the family. Mrs McGlashan had to work from home from 28 weeks and spent this time updating our Digital Technologies planners. This was a huge undertaking and we are most grateful for all her hard work. Our February in-service day will allow teachers time to familiarise themselves with the new planners.

Gardening

P6/5 and Mrs McColgan have started to plant the trees kindly given to us by Natwest Money Sense. This will help to brighten up our reception area. We are looking for a few willing gardeners to help dig a patch of land in our new playground that has not been landscaped yet. Mrs Guthrie has already done part of it but it would be great to get some help. The area is small so it should only take two people a few hours at a time that suits them. It would be great if volunteers could bring their own spades. Please contact the school if you can help. Once this is dug up, we can then do some more planting.

Resources

Mrs Guthrie has asked staff for suggestions for using the money raised through fundraising. There are lots of ideas for improving outside and will hopefully have more of a plan at the next meeting.

Twitter

Mrs Guthrie has reminded staff about using Twitter to share the children's learning with parents.

3. Spiritual Support

Fr Tom joined us this evening and spoke to us about the close contact he and Mrs Guthrie continue to have, regarding Spiritual Support to the school.

At the moment, we still have to follow the guidance from the Government and Local Authority but Fr Tom is hoping that restrictions will soon ease and allow children to attend First Friday Mass.

He thanked all staff for working so hard during these difficult times and praised them for their dedication. Despite necessary changes to First Confession and Communions last year, this has actually turned out to be a very positive change and Fr Tom said the new way is actually much more intimate. The plan is to continue with the same format as last year even when restrictions are eased.

4. Accounts

V Pollard gave a summary of our current account. Our current balance is £4,091. We made £400 from Christmas Cards and £1,696 from the Santa Quest. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support with these ventures. It is very much appreciated and allows us to continue to provide parties, First Communion gifts etc for the children. Our expected expenditure for coming months is approx £1,200.

5. Fundraising

G Henry spoke about 'Easyfundraising'. A big thank you to everyone who has signed up and contributed. So far, we have 47 supporters and we have raised £117.40. Money will be paid to us quarterly from Easyfundraising. We will continue to promote this online and Fr Tom kindly offered to promote it through the Church too.

As a reminder to anyone who hasn't signed up yet, you can raise free donations when you shop online with over 6,000 retailers. Sign up details here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarysprimaryparentpartnershipgreenock/?utm_campaign=raisemore&utm_source=social&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=fdrq22-f1

Cook Book - we discussed the idea of a Spring Cook Book. This is something we have wanted to do for a while and Easter seems like a perfect time to do it.

L Owens agreed to put something together and G Henry asked Fr Tom if the Parish community would like to become involved in it. We will pass on relevant information to Fr Tom in due course.

6. AOB -

Breakfast Club

J Boyd gave us the latest update about the Breakfast Club. M Wilson had been in touch with the Council and they said it would likely be August before anything would happen. M Cassidy will follow this up to try and get an explanation as to why it can't

be implemented this school year. J Boyd will get the name of the relevant person to contact at the Council.

Thank You

The PP thanked L Owens for all her hard work producing the Christmas cards. Thanks also to staff for taking time to teach and record the children singing and take class photographs. We received lots of compliments about the cards and the QR code was an excellent idea.

7. **Next Meeting** - Monday 28th February at 7pm. All welcome.