



St Mary's Parent Partnership - Online Meeting

April 26th 2022

Present:

Mrs Guthrie (HT)	L Owens
Mrs Blincow (DHT)	H McGivern
Mrs MacDonald (DHT)	J McCafferty
G Forbes (Active Schools)	M Purdue
E Fitzharris (Parish Rep)	K Ferrie
M Cassidy (Chairperson)	V Bonnar
G Henry (Secretary) - minutes	S McBride
J Sheridan (Vice Secretary)	J Boyd
V Pollard (Treasurer)	J Campbell
S O'Brien	

Apologies:

Councillor E Robertson	Councillor G Brooks
D McLaughlin (Vice Chairperson)	J McCabe
C Burrows	C O'Donnell

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - M Cassidy welcomed everyone and apologies were noted. We joined Mrs Fitzharris in an opening prayer.
2. **Active Schools** - G Forbes joined us to give an Active Schools update. There have been 201 participants so far (77% of the school roll) which is the highest figure in 4 years and above national average. Every age group in school has now been offered input from Active Schools. P1-3 follow a core programme on an opt-out basis. This covers activities such as Multi-skills and Athletics.

This term there will be a number of opportunities for pupils to participate, including:

- After school Multi-sports
- After school Athletics
- P7 Scoring for Health & lunchtime club
- P7 leadership training (for delivery to P1/2)

- P7 Giant Heptathlon event
- Girls' football festival

3. HT Update - Mrs Guthrie updated us on a number of items:

Walkround

Mrs Guthrie said it was a real pleasure to be able to show the prospective HT candidates round our lovely school and let them see our wonderful children. The visitors were very impressed with how friendly and well-mannered the children were. She thanked the 8 parents who gave up their time on Friday afternoon to meet with the candidates and the 2 parents on the interview panel.

Classes

There are 33 children coming in and 49 leaving, which means our roll will be just under 250. There will be 10 classes - there are various ways to make up the classes so Mrs Guthrie will liaise with staff and the new headteacher to work out the best configuration. It looks as though there will be three composite classes.

Inductions

P1 and P7 induction dates have been agreed and these are going out to parents this week.

There are 5 visits in total for the P1s (4 in St Mary's and one in Glenpark Early Learning Centre) and 2 for the P7s, although some children will have additional visits, depending on their needs.

Outdoors

Mrs Guthrie thanked the Parent Partnership for agreeing to buy the picnic tables - they will be a great asset to the school, especially in promoting outdoor learning. The VAT free paperwork has been approved by headquarters - there has been a slight change in the price of the benches so Mrs Gilbride will get in touch with the final cost.

We also have volunteers coming from EE on Friday to dig up an area in the playground so that we can start planting with the children.

P7 Leavers' Mass and Disco

This will take place on Thursday 23rd June in the church and then the school.

Mrs Guthrie has put a let in for the school so that we can use the dining hall for food and then move through to the gym hall for the disco.

P7 Hoodies

These will be given out before the long weekend at the end of May so that the children can wear them throughout June and to their High School induction days.

School Trip

A school trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park has been booked for Tuesday 14th June. The children will return to school for 5pm to give them plenty of time in the park. Some parent helpers will be needed for this day but they might not accompany their own child's class.

Open Afternoon

Mrs Guthrie and the staff are conscious that most parents have still not been inside the school so there is going to be an open afternoon on **Tuesday 17th May between 3.15pm and 5pm**. This will allow the children to come back in and show their parents round.

There will not be an opportunity to talk to the class teacher at that point, but if anyone has concerns and would like to speak to their child's teacher, it can be arranged for another time.

Thank you

Mrs Guthrie thanked everyone in the Parent Partnership for their commitment to the school and the children. She wished us all the best for the future and talked about how the children are an absolute joy, and the staff are extremely hard working and fully committed to the children. She has thoroughly enjoyed the past 11 years in St Mary's and knows the school will be in safe hands with the new headteacher, with Mrs Blincow and Mrs Macdonald there to support them.

4. Upcoming School Events

P4 First Communion Thanksgiving mass and party to take place on Friday 13th May. V Pollard has ordered gifts for the First Communicants and the PP will organise party food and cupcakes.

P7 leavers' party to be arranged. Pupils will be asked what they would like to eat at their party and the PP will arrange leavers' gifts for them.

PP will purchase P1 sports bags for the new S1 pupils. These can hopefully be given out on one of their induction days in the school. Mrs Guthrie also asked if we could purchase some extras for the school so they can be offered to other pupils in the school who don't have a bag.

5. **Fundraising**

J Sheridan has composed a letter to parents to advertise a Summer Raffle. Letters and raffle tickets will be sent home in the next few weeks. It is hoped the raffle can be drawn on Thursday 26th May. We have already started to collect a number of gift vouchers and bottles and any further donations would be much appreciated.

6. **AOB**

J Boyd spoke about the possibility of a portable Smartboard being purchased for the school. At a recent staff meeting, it was suggested that this would be very useful for the Learning Support and Meeting rooms. Once we have a rough price for this, we can consider this further.

7. **Next Meeting** - Wednesday 8th June