



St Mary's Parent Partnership Meeting

30th August 2022

Present:

Mr Deegan (HT)	J McFadden
Mrs Blincow (DHT)	S O'Brien (Vice Treasurer)
Mrs MacDonald (DHT)	L Owens (Communications)
E Fitzharris (Parish Rep)	J McCafferty
G Forbes (Active Schools)	K Ferrie
M Cassidy (Chairperson)	V Bonnar
D McLaughlin (Vice Chairperson)	J Boyd
V Pollard (Treasurer)	N Dvorak
G Henry (Secretary) - minutes	C McCorkindale
J McCabe	J Campbell
S McBride	E Quigg
C O'Donnell	E Donnelly
H McGivern	

Apologies:

J Sheridan (Vice Secretary)	C Burrows
Cllr F Brennan	L Medinelli
Cllr G Brooks	Cllr E Robertson

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - M Cassidy welcomed everyone. A special welcome was extended to those joining us for the first time this evening. G Henry circulated the attendance sheet and noted apologies.
We joined Mrs Fitzharris in an opening prayer.
2. **Active Schools** - Gary Forbes updated us on the Active Schools Programme. Last year, 86% of St Mary's pupils participated in one or more activities. 225 pupils took part in 2253 sessions and Gary explained that this figure is up significantly from some years ago, so it is something to be proud of. A number of clubs will take place again this year. P1-P3 will be offered core fundamentals such as multiskills & athletics. Since this takes place at lunchtime, it will be an 'opt out' scheme rather than an 'opt

in'. It is hoped that after school clubs for P5-7 will start back the week beginning Monday 12th September. These will include:

Girls football (Monday), Athletics (Wednesday) and Sports Leaders from Notre Dame will also deliver a 6 week programme for P4 and 5. There is also a P7 leadership programme and after 6 weeks, the pupils can deliver sessions to younger classes.

From 1st-7th October there will be a focus on Girls and Women in Sport. It is hoped that all girls in schools across Inverclyde will take part in a mass event on Oct 7th.

Gary reminded us that volunteers are always welcome to help and he can assist with PVG paperwork. Please contact the school if you, or a club that you are involved in, could help at all.

3. **HT Update** - Mr Deegan updated us on a number of items:

Official Opening - The official opening of the school will be held on Sept 22nd. Invites have been sent out to invited guests.

Breakfast Club - will hopefully be starting after the September weekend. It is likely to run for 3 days initially and Mr Deegan has requested a 4th day because there are enough staff members to support this. 50 pupils can be catered for each day and the cost is £1 per child or no charge to those with Free Meal Entitlement.

This news was very well received by the PP as this is something we have enquired about for a number of years. We would like to thank Cllr F Brennan and Cllr J Clocherty for pursuing this matter with Education Services after our last meeting.

Grounds Development - Mr Deegan has been in contact with the Health & Safety team to allow a net to be placed above the MUGA so that all pupils can play football safely in there. He would also like to replace the overgrown plants with turf to give more play areas because it has become unsightly. J McCabe offered the services of RBS/Natwest to help with playground work.

C McCorkindale raised concerns regarding the lack of accessibility in the new playground. Lots of discussion took place and parents felt that in line with GIRFEC, all parts of the school and playground should be inclusive and accessible for all. The PP have agreed to write a letter to Eddie Montgomery to express our concerns. The official school handover is due to take place on September 7th, so this will be done as a matter of priority. *(Update as of 6th Sept: A letter has now been sent to E Montgomery, M Roach and Cllr Brennan on behalf of the PP)*

School Priorities

- **Play Pedagogy** - a playroom is being developed on the 2nd floor for P1/2. All staff will be trained and it is hoped that parents can come in to the school to see what this play looks like in action.

- **Writing** - Literacy attainment in the school is high but the focus has previously been on creative writing. Mr Deegan is keen to look at assessment that takes all areas of pupil's literacy work into account rather than the focus being on just one piece.
- **Parental Involvement** - Mr Deegan appreciates that parents love to see their child learning and will continue to promote the use of Twitter in the school. He is also keen to raise the profile of the school and get involved in the local community.

Communication - a weekly Sway newsletter will be sent out with up-to-date information.

Residential Trips - the P7 Dalguise trip is already booked. Mr Deegan proposed the idea of a P6 trip to Largs (1 night, 2 days). The PP agreed that this would be great for the children and prepares them well for their P7 trip.

Confirmation Consultation - Confirmation will take place in the Church again this year, rather than the Cathedral. Parents are being asked to consider their thoughts on this for future years. Please see the attached consultation. E Fitzharris will collate the returns.

Homework - Mr Deegan discussed homework and whilst there is still the need for P1 and 2 to have regular phonics homework, he is of opinion that most homework should remain optional. A weekly grid will be sent home. G Henry suggested that worked examples of numeracy questions could be shown to parents to allow us to use the same method at home when helping our children.

4. **AGM**

Copies of our PP Constitution were distributed. Please see the attached copy. We welcome any feedback.

Accounts

V Pollard circulated copies of our accounts from last year. Please see the following summary of our income and expenditure:

St. Mary's Parent Partnership Statement of Account: 29th July 2021 to 31st July 2022

Opening Balance 1st August 2021 **£ 2,613.85**

Total Income **£ 4,332.81**

Total Expenditure **£ 5,420.48**

Surplus / (Deficit) for year 2021/22 **-£ 1,087.67**

Bank balance 31st July 2022 **£ 1,526.18**

(No unrepresented cheques)

Donations to School

Tuff Trays	£ 239.96	
Picnic Table Donation	£ 2,912.98	
P1 Sports Bags	£ 100.00	£ 3,252.94

Halloween, Christmas and Summer Parties

Halloween Party Snacks	£ 125.78	
Christmas Party Snacks	£ 139.25	
Christmas Party Gifts	£ 40.00	
Ice Cream Van	£ 361.50	£ 666.53

P7 Leavers

P7 Leaver Mugs	£ 208.00	
P7 Party Supplies	£ 47.15	
P7 Pizzas	£ 156.67	
P7 Banners & Balloons	£ 60.77	
P7 Leaver Doughnuts	£ 45.80	£ 518.39

First Communion

1st Communion Gifts	£ 121.50	
1st Communion Cakes	£ 40.00	
1st Communion Party Snacks	£ 21.17	£ 182.67

Nomination of Office Bearers

All current office bearers resigned. M Cassidy encouraged other PP members to consider taking on a committee role.

M Cassidy agreed to continue with the Chairperson role just now since no-one else expressed an interest. He would like to hand over at some point so if anyone is interested in the role, please get in touch. All other roles have remained the same for this year, with the exception of N Dvorak being nominated as Secretary. G Henry will work alongside her for a while to introduce her to the role. There were no objections to any of the nominations.

Committee Role	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairperson	M Cassidy	V Pollard	D McLaughlin
Vice Chair	D McLaughlin	G Henry	L Owens
Treasurer	V Pollard	V Bonnar	D McLaughlin
Vice Treasurer	S O'Brien	D McLaughlin	G Henry
Secretary	N Dvorak	D McLaughlin	V Pollard
Vice Secretary	J Sheridan	L Owens	V Bonnar
Communication	L Owens	V Pollard	D McLaughlin
Planning & Fundraising	J McCafferty	D McLaughlin	G Henry

5. Fundraising

'Easy Fundraising' continues to be a great source of income for us.

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

Quiz Night - it was agreed to host a Quiz Night on Friday 7th October. Mr Bryceland has kindly agreed to host it again and we are extremely grateful.

Come as you please day - Mr Deegan agreed that this is something we could do once a term, with the first one being Friday 14th October.

6. AOB

Sports Kits - J Boyd explained that we have a lack of St Mary's Sports kits for taking part in athletics, football events etc. The PP are keen to support this. L Owens offered to try and source sportswear for us and she will liaise with J Boyd who has compiled a list of what we need.

School Library - Mr Deegan is very keen to develop a school library. This will be an expensive project but everyone agreed that it would be of great benefit to the school and the PP will support as much as we can.

P7 Hoodies - Mr Deegan is happy for pupils to receive these from December.

School Gate Congestion - concerns were raised about the overcrowding at Kelly street. Mr Deegan has already changed the departure time for P1's so they can leave at 2.55pm and will continue to monitor this and try different ways of reducing congestion.

7. Next Meeting - Tuesday 27th September. All welcome.