





Westfield Primary School Parent Council – Newsletter September 2021






Hello Parents and Carers - The Parent Council is continuing to improve communication with the Parent Forum (YOU), so we have decided to create a newsletter to introduce ourselves, give you some information on what we do, our plans for the year ahead and importantly how you can help to create 'Wonderful Westfield Primary School'.

Meet Your Parent Council 21/22:

	Name	Leanne McDermott
	Position	Chair
	About me	Hi there, I have been in the PC for several years but this year in my role as chair I hope to help bridge any communication gaps with the school/parents/carers and act as an honest parent voice when it is needed. I have 3 girls S1, P5 age 2 and my hobbies are Munro Bagging and Watching Netflix.
	Name	Diane Dowds
	Position	Deputy chair (Poverty Proofing Lead)
	About me	Hello! I have two sons at Westfield Primary 3 and Pre School. I'm always available to chat with and share any feedback you might have. My hobbies are horse riding and shopping. I have the loudest laugh of any parent and you will hear me before you see me in the playground.
	Name	Lynn Coleman
	Position	Secretary
	About me	Hi, I have a daughter in P2 and a crazy 3-year-old! I enjoy walking and my new hobby...cold water dips in Loch Lomond! Brrr! I am passionate about helping kids be the best they can be and will be involved in the poverty proofing project this year. Looking forward to working with everyone. Feel free to say hi if you see me at the school gates.
	Name:	Debbie Gray (Traffic Safety Lead)
	Position	Treasurer
	About me	Hi everyone, I have a daughter Beth in P1 & most of my time is taken up with her after school activities. I will be leading the traffic safety campaign this year and hopefully going forward we will see some improvements.
	Name:	Victoria Neilson
	Position	Minute Secretary
	About me	Hi all, I have two daughters, Esmée in P3 and Robyn will be starting Westfield next year. I enjoy swimming and reading (when I get a chance!). This year my focus will be to support Debbie with trying to improve the safety of our children during drop off and pick up times. I will also be busy collating the minutes after our PC meetings.

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	Name	Lorraine Senior
	Position	Parent Council Member
	About me	Hi there, I've been in the PTA for 6 years and now the parent council for the last 3 years. I have two children in high school and one in P7, so I have been in the Westfield school community for a long time. I can offer advice and support to parents and teachers through my first-hand experience.
	Name	John Reid
	Position	Parent Council Member (Positivity Champion)
	About me	Hi there, as someone who not only went to Westfield Primary but lived in Westfield all his life, I've watched the school evolve, I'm hoping to play a positive role in its further development for benefit of both parents and children. I've got two kids. Girl in P7 and boy in P1. My hobbies include running and watching Dr Who.
	Name:	Donna Monaghan
	Position	Parent Council Member
	About me	This year I have to joined the Parent Council after being a member of the Parent Council Fundraising Committee for the last 3 years. I have a son currently in P4 and a daughter in P3.



PC and PCFC - So, we get asked this a lot! What does the Parent Council do and what is the PCFC?

Parent Councils Role:

- Support the school in its work with pupils
- Represent the views of parents and carer
- Encourage links between the school, parents/carers, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community.

PCFCs role:

At Westfield PS we have a separate fund-raising committee known as the Parent Council Fund Raising Committee (formally the PTA). The PCFC works hard to create events that the children, parents/carers and staff can enjoy and raise money to help fund items and activities within school. If you wish to become involved, please get in touch with Paula Cathcart on the Facebook page – we are always needing extra help!!



School Positivity - We will be starting our '**Wonderful Westfield Primary School**' campaign, led by our Positivity Champion John Reid. John will be rallying some good news stories and funny quotes from the kids experiences at Westfield PS. Please keep John up to date with anything you want to share to spread the positivity and laughter in our school community.





Poverty Proofing Group - Diane and Lynn are keen to implement and improve our poverty proofing policy to ensure equality and remove barriers to learning at our school. Last year we set up our Uniform Swap Shop which has not had a great response so we will be thinking of different and new ways to improve this and help parents meet the financial demands of school life. Please get in touch if you want to help with this.

Please note: a confidential ‘no questions asked’ uniform referral scheme is still in place – contact Leanne McDermott – PM on Facebook or email westfieldpc21@gmail.com if you need assistance.



Traffic Safety Group - You have told us you are concerned about the traffic safety and parking around the school, so we have set up a traffic safety group led by Victoria and Debbie. We will be looking for some parent volunteers with a vested interest in creating safer school drop offs and pick-ups. In the meantime, can we please ask parent to be mindful of where they park (not on the main road or in the bus stops) and to keep speed **below 20mph**.



General update from our last meeting:

- **Toilets- After many emails to NLC and help from parents, NLC have confirmed our school toilets will be refurbished – woohoooo!! Date to be confirmed.....**
- Lack of communication – the school has had a difficult start to the year with various IT issues with email addresses, Twitter and Glow. All of these issues are slowly resolving themselves and communication should improve over the coming weeks. If parents have any concerns, they are most welcome to contact the office. Mrs Ellington has confirmed that despite the teething problems with IT – the children are very happy and settled in school. She understands the frustrations parents have had but also asks for patience as there is still a significant amount of admin and restrictions associated with the current pandemic. *Post meeting note: Mrs Ellington has issued further updates to answer parents’ questions.*
- Water – children should bring water to school. If they run out the school office can refill as only the staff kitchen has drinkable water. Normal water fountains are not in use due to covid transmission risk.
- Traffic – NLC have been contacted by the PC regarding the crossing point issues. Traffic safety group has been set up. *Post meeting note: we contacted the council and they have advised they cannot fill the crossing point vacancy – the Janitor will fill the role in the meantime.*
- Homework help – please contact your child’s teacher if you require any further help or guidance with your Childs homework.
- Mindfulness – Mrs Ellington will explore the use of mindfulness in the classroom again.

We need your help! - We will be having regular meetings throughout the year and will let you know when these are happening so you can provide feedback – don’t forget the good things too! Please get in touch if you wish to help with any of the groups or fundraising.

Get in touch via:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/760033014190375>

OR

westfieldpc21@gmail.com