**Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class**

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**Parent Council Meeting – 4th September, 2019**

**A PLACE OF ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT**

 responsi**B**ility

 gr**A**titude

 **BELIEVE IN YOURSELF**

 huMility and forgiveness

 persever**A**nce

 **L**ove

**ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS**

 h**O**nesty and generosity

 Compassion and respe**C**t

 friends**H**ip

1. **Budgets**

School Budget for the session: £6000 approximately

Nursery Budget for the session: £2,500 approximately

Savings to be made this session: £3487

Approximately £1400 must be paid for janitorial, Learning Festival, ICT Technical Services and Active Schools.

The school spent £3930.00 on buses for trips/competitions/theatre last session. For example, the theatre trip cost approximately £1000.00 for the bus for the whole school. The netball tournament bus cost approximately £80.00.

Resources: Additional iPads and white boards required due to the increase in pupil numbers.

1. **Staffing**

Mrs Angus has now retired which leaves a vacancy in the school office. Mrs Mitchell is now Senior Clerical Assistant 4 days per week (Tuesday-Friday) and the remaining day (Monday) has been advertised on My Job Scotland. The interviews will take place on 7th October, 2019. A further 2 days for the Clerical Assistant position will be filled by North Lanarkshire Council but at present we do not have the full staffing in the office.

Mrs Szostak has now started in school as Dining Hall Assistant and also provides support in the playground from 10.30-10.45am.

Mr Harkness is our new P1 teacher but is off at present on Paternity Leave. Mr Harkness will return to school on 19th September, 2019 which will allow Mrs Convery, our new Principal Teacher, to resume her position.

Mrs Ashraf is currently working in Primary 3b to cover Mrs Emslie’s maternity leave. Mrs Emslie will return to work after the Christmas holidays – 6th January, 2020.

Mrs Hourigan, Mrs McBride and Mrs Merrick have received First Aid training which lasts for 3 years. Mrs Hourigan will be the First Aider in the school for this session and Mrs Merrick in the nursery.

Mrs Smith, ASNA, has increased her hours to full-time and works part-time in the nursery and part-time in the school to support pupils.

Mrs Smith’s part-time hours (12.5) will be advertised on My Job Scotland for the position of ASNA.

**Holidays and Diary Dates**

An updated holidays’ list has been sent out to parents/carers, following changes made at the end of the last school year.

Dates for your Diary will be sent out to parents every term and any additional dates after that will be advised through Twitter. Due to savings that need to be made making sure we are making effective use of the school budget, we are trying to keep the ‘Diary Dates’ to one sheet to reduce costs for paper and printing which supports our work as an ECO school.

1. **Supporting Families – PTA & Storehouse Church**

Contingency fund to support families with children in receipt of Free School Meals, ensuring equity for learners.

Storehouse Church provided £400.00 last session with the stipulation this is what it would be used for. We used some of the money to support families attending the Titanic trip - Belfast and have subsidised the cost of the Primary 2 trip to Almond Valley for some families.

**Community Learning and Development**

We are unable to work with CLD this year through our PEF allocation as a result of increases in teacher salaries (10% increase) and North Lanarkshire Council administration fees.

The PEF allocation for the session has been used to fund an additional teacher to focus on Learning Support/Staff Development.

1. **Parent Council Meetings**
	* 1. 6.30pm to 7.30pm

6.11.19 6.30pm to 7.30pm

5.2.20 6.30pm to 7.30pm

6.5.20 6.30pm to 7.30pm

1. **Family Learning Afternoon**

The Family Learning Afternoon will be held from 1-2pm on 19th September 2019 – Meeting the Teacher/A day my life at school/Latest and Best jotters and target setting.

Last year this event was held in the evening, however it was poorly attended and was reviewed by staff when agreeing the Working Time Agreement, changing to an afternoon. There will be an opportunity for working parents to meet their child’s teacher and look at Latest and Best jotters/Target Setting at Parents’ Night/Afternoon, asking any questions that need answered.

Next session, the management team would be happy to lead a workshop for working parents focusing on the curriculum but this would depend on the feedback from parents/carers regarding attendance at such an event.

1. **School Captains and Vice Captains**

The roles of House and Vice Captains are ones of privilege, pride and responsibility. They are more than just a title and badge and require dedication and commitment for an entire year. The children will be selected to be representatives for our school at key events. To apply for these positions, children prepare a speech which shows how they would ensure our school values, motto, aims and vision will be promoted/encouraged by them.

Four pupils from the high school will visit the school on the day of the assembly where the speeches will be read out and choose who they feel would carry out the role most effectively.

P6 – Vice Captains

P7 – Captains

A date will be arranged with the high school and P6 and P7 children advised.

1. **Anti-bullying meeting**

This was held on 8th May, 2019 to allow the school to work in partnership with parents. Approximately 50 parents attended out of a school of 351 pupils. We discussed the current policy and procedures and those in attendance stated meeting with the other family when there are problems would help resolve the issues when the problem has been discussed with children in school but circumstances have not changed.

An Anti-bullying and Positive Relationships and Behaviour Survey was issued to all families on the emails they provided in their V5 form at the start of the year. We had 4 responses to the survey, highlighting that this is not an issue for most of our children/families.

**Anti-bullying/Positive Relationships Survey**

From the survey, parents indicated that they felt the meeting answered their questions.

A parent stated that some changes could be made but did not highlight what these were.

One parent stated they have not seen the policy but was made available at the Anti-bullying meeting for parents and has not been uploaded on the school website at present as we were waiting for feedback in order to do this in consultation with parents.

One parent stated it was a good, clear, straightforward guide with language that is understood. Clear guidance for the children to understand.

One parent stated that bullying incidents increase as a result of council cuts with less bodies to support our children outside of the classroom (e.g.) the playground. This needs to be recorded and send back to the council. We have x amount of students and 2 people to support them in a playground that it is impossible to see all the children at one point due to the shape of it. Our children’s mental health and wellbeing is being affected by feeling unsafe in the very place they should feel safe. The council need to acknowledge this. In response, at interval the janitor 4 ASNAs are in the playground. The newly appointed Dining Hall Assistant is also in the playground at interval. Twice a week, a parent helper is also in the playground at interval and lunch time. Parents on the Parent Council were asked if they would like parent helpers to help in the playground to support children but most were reluctant for this to happen.

One parent stated that children’s voices need to be heard. We have systems in place through our committees to give children a voice. The HWB priority for the session 2019-20 will allow children to choose one adult they can talk to and this will give children another person to turn to if required. Moreover, the introduction of a P1-3 and P4-7 nurture group will also support this. Any further suggestions on how we can give children a voice and encourage them to share experiences would be welcomed.

One parent stated that we must continue advocating at school and include in day to day teaching. Good role models displaying good behaviours. HWB is a core area of learning in our school and activities are planned throughout the year to support this (e.g.) Hope Theatre Company event which the children commented on favourably.

One parent stated that it can sometimes feel that the bully is protected more than the victim.

One parent stated the policy is adequate, it is fine and nothing needs changed.

Our Health and Wellbeing priority this session includes the development of a nurture room for P1-3 and P4-7 focusing on Mental Health First Aid and will also review the Anti-bullying and Positive Relationships Policy as a staff, taking into account the views expressed at the meeting, through the survey and through our Pupil Voice groups.

1. **Traffic**

Mr Thomson continues to monitor the traffic each morning and after school. The traffic is flowing much better, with fewer people coming into the staff car park keeping the children safe.

Altering the location of the school bus has also helped to reduce risks, as children are on the pavement and going straight onto the bus. The HT checks children are wearing seatbelts before they go home. In the morning, older children are happy to help younger children (e.g.) P1, taking them to their playground.

Mr Thomson, however, would be happy for any parent/carer volunteers to police the car park and area at the roundabout as an extra helping hand. This may be a good idea when the changes to the janitorial service changes in the near future.

Mr Orrock, Head Teacher Kilsyth Academy, advised he would discuss parking at the high school and arrange a meeting with Miss McCarthy. This would mean families walking with their children along Neilston Walk and we are unsure of how many families would wish to do this.

1. **Parent Council Roles and Responsibilities - Election**

Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Clerk

Office Bearers

1. **School Improvement Plan 2019/20**

**Priority 1 - Cluster**

To improve attainment in Literacy (Writing) for all, through planned moderation activities at school, cluster and beyond level.

 To develop a more robust shared understanding of the standards and in clusters

 plan regular opportunities to have professional dialogue about children’s

 achievement of a level.

 **Priority 2**

 To raise the profile of all aspects of Wellbeing and develop a consistent and

 shared understanding, to raise awareness of Wellbeing indicators and nurture

 principles across all stakeholders, ensure all staff have access to high quality &

 relevant information, develop robust tracking system for Wellbeing, participation

 and engagement.

  **Priority 3**

 To improve opportunities for pupils to engage in STEM, promoting development of

 employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all

 learners.

 **Priority 4**

 Improve consistency of teaching, learning and assessment across the school and

 robust tracking and monitoring approaches to raise attainment and achievement,

 closing the attainment gap.

1. **HGIOS? 4**

 Survey for Parents – Self-Evaluation for School Improvement - Partnerships

**Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class**

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**How Good is our School?**

**Parent Survey – September, 2019**

1. Are partnerships with parents based on mutual respect and trust?

YES NO DON’T KNOW

If not, why not?

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1. What school policies are you aware of?

(New policies can be found on the School Website – Policies. Some policies will need to be reviewed and updated but will be uploaded when this has been completed.)

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1. Would you like to be involved in creating and shaping school policies?

YES NO DON’T KNOW

Have you been involved in creating and shaping policies before?

YES NO DON’T KNOW

1. What would be the best way for you to be involved in creating/shaping school policies?

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1. How do staff support you to actively engage in your children’s learning, attainment and achievement?

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1. Do you feel the Parent Council fairly represents all parents/carers, seeking views and dealing with complaints in an effective and timely manner?

YES NO DON’T KNOW

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If not, why Not?

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1. Does the school’s curriculum provide opportunities for children to learn through the local community?

YES NO DON’T KNOW

Can you give some examples of how the school promotes learning in the community?

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1. In what other ways would you like the school to get you involved to promote partnerships further?

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