**Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class**

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**Parent Council Meeting 19th February, 2020**

 **Parent Council Agenda:**

 1 – Pupil Equity Fund - discussion for spending.

 2 - School building inspection.

 3 - Partnership kids club transport.

 4 - Play based learning removal.

 5 - Kilbowie alternative.

 6 - Teacher recognition.

 7 - Communication including Twitter.

**Head Teacher’s Report**

1. **School Budget**
* Budget had to be spent by the end of January to ensure invoices could be processed and goods received.
* Following negotiation with Clicker – Crick Software – a deal was secured for 40 licences – Clicker 8.

Clicker is the complete writing solution for the primary classroom providing every pupil with the right level of support and challenge.

Staff received training on 13th January, 2020.

Reduced quote for 40 licences, approximately 3 per class – 3 Years. (£900 – Year 1 and £900 – Year 2)

* £776 – Early Intervention Budget – Play Based Resources for Literacy and Numeracy/Role-Play Equipment.
* New budget – April 1st
1. **Pupil News**

Sportshall Athletics Team 2nd Place

Rotary Quiz – One Team – 2nd Place

1. **Christmas Fayre – Money Raised**

£736.55

1. **Choir – Craigmarloch Tesco**

Balmalloch Primary School Choir raised £195.39, contributing to approximately £1000.00 raised by all schools taking part. HT suggested that the choir could also have an opportunity to participate in an event in Spring time, where they would sing a selection of their own choice of songs. Tesco will advise if this will be possible.

1. **Poetry Competition – Balmalloch Primary School/Burns’ Poetry Competition – Abronhill – 15.02.20**

This session we enlisted the support of two S6 students from Kilsyth Academy to judge the poetry competition. Gifts donated were used, together with a selection of books, as prizes for the winning pupils, which added to their sense of achievement. Balmalloch Primary School supports the ‘Empowerment Agenda’, providing opportunities for ‘Pupil Voice’ through positive partnership working with Kilsyth Academy.

1. **School Building – Maintenance – Mr Craik – Kilsyth Community Council**
* Main Hall Floor – Inspection indicated that the floor requires to be sanded and re-sealed along with the reinstatement of 2 sets of games court lines.  This requires capital funding and discussions are ongoing with Education on this matter.
* Ceiling Tiles – Some tiles have been replaced as a result of being damaged or missing. In the process of resolving any leaks before completing the job.
* Roof Leaks – Leaks are being investigated and repairs will be carried out to rectify the problem.
* Gutters and Downpipes - Works orders have been issued to clear the gutters and downpipes in relation to the area associated with the glass canopy at the main entrance area.  These works are now complete.
* Junior cloakroom inspection – A review of this area was carried out recently by Education Staff and NLC Maintenance Officer and discussions are ongoing with Education.  This should hopefully be concluded over the course of the next 2 weeks.
* Noise Issues – There are ongoing issues with noise at the school and any proposals to address this issue will involve a future capital bid being developed in due course.
* Junior and Senior areas cupboards – It was noted that the existing cupboards referred to have open shelving in areas and no doors.  A solution to this issue needs to be formalised with the teaching staff to balance their specific requirements.  Any modifications required will be carried out in early course.
1. **Free School Meals – Pupil Equity Fund – P1 Induction Programme/Curriculum Events/School Handbook**

Following a recent meeting with the Chairperson of the Parent Council, the Chairperson of the PTA and the Chairperson of Kilsyth Community Council, it was suggested that a transition pack is made up for parents/carers prior to children starting P1 which would include a letter to explain Free School Meals and the Pupil Equity Fund Award. The DHT advised a ‘Transition Pack’ is already provided for parents/carers to support their child starting school. Information in relation to the Pupil Equity Fund/Free School Meals will be included.

At the induction event in June, ‘Latest and Best’ jotters will also be shared with parents/carers, allowing positive partnerships to be supported. The SHANARRI web will be discussed and the information included to enable parents/carers to support the work of the school in raising attainment and achievement.

The recent Active Literacy - Early Level Curriculum Evening provided information/guidance to enable parents/carers to support their child with literacy. These Family Learning events will be planned into the school year from August 2020. Another Active Literacy First Level event is planned for March and a Second Level Active Literacy event will be offered prior to June if this is of interest to parents/carers. It is hoped that when more families know about the events, the attendance levels will rise.

School Handbook – Parent Council issued with a copy, feedback required.

1. **Results from ‘Cost of the School Year’ survey**

The majority of parents/carers were happy with the events/activities offered throughout the school year. Only one author visit only take place in the session to reduce the pressure put on parents/carers – cost of books.

The school will continue to support families with children in receipt of Free School Meals with the help of the PTA. To qualify, children in receipt of Free School Meals would still be entitled to them if the Government withdrew funding for P1-3 pupils/when pupils are presently in Primary 4-7.

1. **World of Work Week – 30th March**

Miss Paterson and Mrs Duff have issued letters to enlist the support of parents/carers to be part of World of Work Week.

Balmalloch P.S. is beginning work with Skills Development Scotland – Stephen Mann – to take forward the school improvement priority – Developing the Young Workforce.

1. **Report Cards** **–V- Latest and Best Jotter/Class Newsletters/Twitter**

Workload/Consistency across stages

**The Open Agreement - 144 hrs**

This may include:

* Additional Preparation, Correction and Assessment
* Formal Assessments
* Preparation of Reports and Other Records (including GIRFme Plans/What I Think Tool/SAA)
* Curriculum Development
* Forward Planning
* Professional Dialogue – Assessment & Moderation/Achievement of a Level
* Pass on Information (Dialogue with Colleagues/External Agencies)
1. **Digital Leaders – Digital Xtra Funding**

Following a successful application, an award of £5000 has been allocated to Balmalloch Primary School. There are clear stipulations in relation to what the funding can be used for but it will support the purchase of new technology for our children. The first amount of £3000 has been paid, with the remainder of the money to be paid in June, on completion of the agreed timetable, targets and evaluation with Digital Xtra. Mr Paterson is in the process of ordering a range of equipment:

* Box of 15 Spheros
* Dot & Dash robots and micro:bits (coding)

The technology will be used initially with the Digital Leaders in the school to train them on using it before they share it with the school, with a particular focus on younger children and girls. This will be done through an after school club run by the Digital Leaders.

1. **STEM – YSL Delivery Centre/Young STEM Leaders’ Conference**

The Scottish Government has committed to ‘establish a new Young STEM Leader Programme to stimulate and strengthen the development of peer mentoring and inspiration in STEM for young people by young people.’

The YSL Programme aims to spark greater interest and participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) among young people in Scotland.

Young people have the chance to inspire, lead and mentor their peers through the creation and delivery of STEM activities, events and interactions within education establishments or local community groups.

The key aim of the YSL Programme is to facilitate the development of peer STEM role models to inspire more young people to develop an interest in STEM.

As well as developing important personal skills that are increasingly in demand from employers, working through the programme will motivate the YSLs to progress their STEM studies and potentially embark on a related career in STEM.

The Scottish government-funded Programme is being led by SSERC and a range of partners, including the four Scottish Science Centres, three Scottish STEM Ambassador Hubs, Science Festivals, YouthLink Scotland, Young Scot, Education Scotland, Science Skills Academy and the Scottish Mentoring Network.

The YSL Programme is available at CfE Second, Third and Fourth Levels, underpinned by a framework that identifies the skills, knowledge and behaviours expected of a YSL at each curricular level.

In the coming academic years, formally accredited and certificated versions of the YSL Programme at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 will be offered.

The Level 6 version is pending with the Level 4 and 5 frameworks currently in development.  These versions of the programme will be underpinned by learning outcomes and performance criteria for each level.

Mr Paterson will be attending training in May with training of Young STEM Leaders after the summer. Balmalloch P.S. would become a STEM Delivery Centre, delivering training for our STEM Ambassadors to allow them to deliver STEM Education in our school. The YSL programme will allow our P6 and P7 STEM Ambassadors to train and be awarded in their training and work as they become Young STEM Leaders.

1. **Parent Portal**

HT training – 18th February, 2020.

Clerical training – 4th March, 2020

1. **Proposed School Improvement Plan Priorities – Session 2020-21**

**Priority 1 (3 Year Plan)**

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 (APT – January 2020/PT – Mrs Convery January 2021)**

To continue to review our curriculum in the Broad General Education and Senior Phase to ensure clear pathways for all learners; Social Studies, Science and Investigation, Technologies, Developing the Young Workforce and Homework.

**Priority 3 (HT – Miss McCarthy)**

To develop leadership capacity of all staff thus improving the overall capacity of Balmalloch Primary School to provide excellence and equity for all learners.

**Priority 4 – Nursery (DHT – Mrs Louise Chambers)**

To develop leadership capacity of the newly established nursery staff team improving the overall capacity of Balmalloch Nursery Class, ensuring excellence and equity for all learners; Forest Schools, Solihull Parenting, Makaton.

1. **School Improvement Priority – Parents**

**R. McCarthy**

**Head Teacher**

**11th February, 2020**