

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



Parent Council Meeting

Date: 03.09.24

Time: 6-7pm (in school)

A PLACE OF ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

ResponsiBility

grAitude

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

huMility and forgiveness

perseverAnce

Love

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

hOnesty and generosity

Compassion and respeCt

friendsHip

COST OF LIVING:

NLC webpage for information and signposting to benefits and supporting agencies.

https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/cost-living?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Talk+Money+Week+2022

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

[Financial support for families with children at school \(northlanarkshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/financial-support-for-families-with-children-at-school)

PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

03.09.24

05.11.24

04.02.25

13.05.25

AGENDA

- Homework Survey
- Feedback Information Evening
- Calvary Park Bus

VALUE OF THE MONTH

August - Friendship

September - Gratitude

October - Honesty

November - Respect

December - Family

Self-Help for Parents/Carers

www.solihullparenting.com – free online course 'understanding my child'

www.opfs.org.uk – support and advice for single parents

www.relationships-scotland.org.uk – advice and resources for parenting apart

www.sleepscotland.org – help with children's sleep issues

www.sdsscotland.org.uk – guidance on your child's health and education

www.enquire.org.uk – advice for parents about additional support for learning

www.youngminds.org.uk – mental health charity for children, young people and their parents

www.familiesoutside.org.uk – support to families affected by imprisonment

www.sfad.org.uk – Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

Parent Council Constitution

At the AGM the Constitution should be reviewed.

The objectives of the Parent Council are to:

- Work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school where all parents and pupils feel included.
- Promote partnership between the school, all its pupils and all its parents.
- To develop and participate in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of the parents on the education provided by the school and any other matters affecting the education and welfare of pupils.

ACTION: REVIEW NEXT MEETING

Members

The Parent Council will be made up of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10 current parents.

Each parent will be selected for a period of 1 year but they may put themselves forward for re-selection if desired.

Roles:

- Chairperson
- Secretary

ACTION: APPOINT NEXT MEETING

Accountability

The Parent Council is accountable to the Parent Forum and will provide a yearly report on its activities on behalf of the parents.

Meetings

An annual meeting will be held in September - electing members of the Parent Council.

The Parent Council will meet every term (see above)

Minutes of all meetings will be taken by the secretary and **shared with the school one week after the meeting**. The minutes will be uploaded on the school website and will be shared with North Lanarkshire Council.

Connect

Connect is the trading name of the Scottish Parent Council

Asda Cashpot for Schools

Cashpot for Schools launches in Asda via the Asda Rewards app. Download the Asda Rewards app and select the school you wish to support. From the 2nd September to 30th November, the Asda Foundation will donate 0.5% of the cost of the shopping. For every person who selects a school that school will receive a £1.00 donation and with the first customers spend, that school will receive a one-off £50 bonus donation.

Parents must opt in to take part when the Parent Council have registered with ParentKind through their website.

Thank you for supporting the school.

ACTION: Stewart will sign up as the Parent Council Chairperson.

Homework

Consultation parents/staff

Survey Results:

119 responses - most returned survey in the school. Responses shared with Stewart and staff. Responses indicate parents wanted homework different from the homework grid.

70 - After school clubs

Stewart

Provision of homework - consistency and application across the stages/no homework straight to homework at the Academy.

We should still not be basing it on the lowest common denominator.

Direction is needed.

Platform - Sumdog.

Not expecting it to be marked etc.

More about direction. What is the focus that week?

Relevant information at the relevant time.

Simplify what Mrs Hamilton was doing to support families.

Anxiety kicks in when we don't know what they are doing at that time and we are trying to teach them what they are not learning at that time.

Lorna

The Academy doesn't give lots of homework - children have attended.

Anxiety and behaviour issues.

Quality lessons - spending time on that rather than adding in sourcing homework.

Maths evening was provided for parents and no-one attended.

Working with 5 maths groups.

Reading/Times Tables/Number Bonds

Newsletter provides information about what will be covered over the term.

Behaviour/Anxiety

Children make progress in my class without formal homework.

Planning - time taken to ensure you are meeting the needs in your class.

Carrie

Bare minimum we should be striving for.

Really good quality homework from Mrs Hamilton.

Video - here's how we are teaching ...

10 clubs a week between 3 kids but I can still find time.

Fortnightly would be fine.

I don't know how to teach my kids because I am not a teacher.

Not expecting a homework task to be marked but more of a family learning task. Maybe the teacher could cast their eye over it at the end of the month.

Research your topic in the community.

Monthly objective. What they are doing at that point?

John

We pulled away from Teams because it didn't work.

Is it a resource bank?

Is it a platform (e.g.) Sumdog?

Laura

You will teach your children homework without knowing you are doing it.

Can't hold people back to reduce the attainment gap.

Homework grid may be for 2 or 3 months and we need guidance about what is happening in class at that particular time.

Promotion of homework not pushed.

I would spend time with my child to complete homework to address difficulties.

Direction is needed.

When the homework has been created could that not be passed on, with teachers adding to it.

Library for staff to access.

Children go home and teach the parents how to do it. I value homework because it lets me see how they are doing.

You can claw back time with Snapshot Jotters.

Kirsty

Sumdog competitions

Literacy and Numeracy

Never had all homework back.

We can't do anymore than we are doing. I was happy to give out homework but didn't have the same number of groups/levels as this year.

We are in it for your kids.

3 different spelling groups this year and last year I didn't.

Feedback impacts on learners if it is given in the moment.

Marking is not the important part.

Maths - Sheet/Sumdog competition

Spelling (e.g.) rules

Personal reading

Kate

EIS Representative

35 hour week

Must negotiate hours with Ruth

Education Scotland - Engaging Parents and Families - Family Engagement is not just homework.

Janice

Number Bonds

Reading

Numeracy and Maths

Overview for the month, guideline on a month basis. The main focus for this month is ...

At this age it is consolidating

Or

Platform - Top Marks/Sumdog

Not a physical sheet of paper

Rachael

If I was to put my child online she would watch YouTube.

What about children who can't access online?

Cassie

Not for or against

The majority have returned the survey and we must take that into consideration.

I would be delighted if I was given the homework Mrs Hamilton gave out last year.

Really supportive of Mrs Hamilton.

Bug Club - Reading online.

Erin Diamond

Impact is important.

For some children school and home is very different and can put pressure on children and families.

Is there a better use of a teacher's time?

Eric Finney

Blanket approach may not work. Not everyone has your passion. My son has autism. Every student had to have their own individualised care plan.

Monthly newsletter of what we are working on.

My children use Prodigy - brilliant for my son.

Provide parents with options.

Next Steps:

- Compromise to provide parents with what children are working on at the time, so that they can reinforce this at home.

Feedback - Information Evening

John

Take children to the library.

ACTION: Information from slides could be put up on website each year for parents to access themselves and instead have another curriculum evening where parents can learn about what children are learning and how this is taught.

Calvary Park Bus

Last year the Parent Council asked if the Calvary Park bus could bring children to school just prior to 9am as staff don't start until 9am and it is outlined in the school handbook there will be no supervision in the playground.

Contact Information - Parent Council

Could all members of the Parent Council check their details have not changed on the contact list?

ACTION: Next meeting

AGM

Appoint Chairperson and Secretary.

Chairperson:

Secretary:

ACTION: Next meeting

SPT

Contract Specification for School Transport

School times - AM - preferred 8.45am/acceptable 8.45-8.55am

School times - PM - preferred 15:05/acceptable 15:15

The contractor has a 10-minute window in which to bring children to school and drop them off/pick children up and drop them off.

ACTION: No further action

Snapshot Jotters and Pupil Progress Profile

Class teachers have advised that a number of children have not returned their Snapshot Jotter from last year or their Pupil Progress Profile. Class teachers were going to use Snapshot Jotters from last year due to the number of pages remaining. We always build on children's prior learning and teachers refer back to ensure children make progress.

Pupil Progress Profiles are used each year from the beginning of the session and provide information each term for parents/carers, with a progress report being issued twice in the year. Unfortunately, if the jotters are not returned we will be unable to complete the appropriate sections this term, enabling you to see the progress your child is making.

We would be grateful if any Snapshot Jotters and Pupil Progress Profiles could be returned to your child's current class teacher as soon as possible so that your child and their teacher can use these in class.

Thank you very much for your support with this.

Miss McCarthy
Head Teacher

ACTION: Email sent by HT on 3.9.24