

**Balmalloch Primary Parent Council Meeting**  
**14 May 2025**  
**6-7pm**

**Attendees:** Ruth McCathy (Head Teacher), Kate Patrick, John Patterson, Alison Breingan (Chair), Carrie Strachan, Carolann McLuckie, Jennifer Molloy, Nicola Patrick Breen

**Apologies:** Stewart Derrick, Laura Young, Eric Finney, Alissa Kauffman, Rhona Stille Brown

No	Item	
	<b>Apologies and Welcome</b>	
1	<b>PARENT HELPERS ON SCHOOL TRIPS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ruth to speak to the office on limits for each trip, possible additional parents for additional support kids.</li> </ul>	Ruth
2	<b>INSPECTION FEEDBACK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further feedback, nothing communicated as yet. PC asked if the school had a debrief as per education Scotland website, nothing communicated.</li> <li>PC asked if we are engaged/disengaged but the school are unaware.</li> <li>Some schools have waited in excess of 16 weeks for the report.</li> </ul>	
3	<b>RSHP COMMS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chat with Mrs Diamond, no changes since last training.</li> <li>Slides or link have to be shared so that parent's have the option to view or show their children (website option).</li> </ul>	Ruth
4	<b>X REPLACEMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No replacement going forward.</li> <li>Looking to update the class newsletter and facilitate this to communicate photos, rotation TBC (monthly/termly).</li> <li>Newsletter – what do we need going forward, don't want to be providing parents with unnecessary information.</li> <li>PC group to review current class newsletters and provide feedback to see if these can be scaled down.</li> </ul>	PC
5	<b>Homework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alison and Laura met with Kate and John previously, grids are being removed from term 1 and will be replaced with study ladder.</li> <li>There will be an information night on this, with further options for people who cannot attend in person TBC.</li> <li>Kids are currently using within classes lots of support and resource options and will be based on your child's class grouping.</li> <li>Homework remains optional.</li> <li>Access options? If anyone requires a device then please speak to the school who can advise on this.</li> <li>Ali commented that school need to be consistent over on homework over classes i.e P3A v P3B.</li> <li>Communication of study ladder needs to be clear and explicit.</li> </ul>	

6	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><i>SOCIAL MEDIA – STRANGERS APPROACHING KIDS, OVERALL PLAYGROUND SAFETY</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are H&amp;S in place for this, higher fences and measures in place, 3 entries into school and no way to police them all.</li> <li>• No supervision in playground pre-school apart from parents who are dropping kids, bus kids and p4-p7 breakfast club are left unattended from 8.45-9.</li> <li>• School plan is to close the school gate from 8.45 until 9.15 this should help to deal with the parking issue, limit people coming into the school and allow the school bus to drop kids off much closer to 9am reducing the risk – Option for breakfast club to run 8.30-9 again to reduce risk of unsupervised kids.</li> <li>• Teachers cannot supervise due to contract restrictions, Mr Thompson looks after the grounds and not the people, parent council requests school management supervision or alter ASN start and finish times but this has been rejected. Cars can use surrounding areas or the Kilsyth Academy car park, this removes the drop off zone.</li> <li>• From P4 parents should not be entering the school grounds, they should be outside the gates, this will be enforced from August.</li> <li>• School and PC to lobby the council on safety of 8.45 issue to provide a person to support supervision. Legally only 1 person required to supervise playground.</li> </ul> <p><i>P6 TRIP, PROM/BEACH PARTY, HOODIES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School/PTA organises a beach party within the school for all kids to attend, this reduces expensive purchases etc.</li> <li>• In the past P7 parents have arranged a prom independent of the school however some pupils have been missed out due to communication issue (not all parents in chat), and it can be expensive with limo hire, hair, make up, outfits, venue hire etc – School spoke about stopping the beach party but PC feel that it should stay and clear early communication to P6/P7 parents that the school arrange a beach party would be the best approach. Ruth agreed to this approach. PC will look at drafting a communication at the start of the new school year to parents and for this to be sent as a group call.</li> <li>• Hoodies are arranged by parents and not the school this will need to be taken up by the parents but due to missing chat for the upcoming year group this may need to be communicated with the parents via the school.</li> </ul> <p><i>CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some parents have been asking if we can get a class photo instead of an individual, there isn't enough time or space to do both. Parents will be asked if they'd prefer a class or an individual however class photo's will be a collection of individual photos and not the traditional bench photo.</li> <li>• P1 and P7 will continue to have both options.</li> <li>• An alternative photographer could be explored to give a traditional class photo as the current photographer couldn't/wouldn't do this. Parents should be consulted on what they would like.</li> </ul> <p><i>GALA DAY SCHOOL PROCESSION</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No feedback or interest from parents thus far.</li> <li>• Speaking to St Patricks, the teachers organised but this isn't an option at Balmalloch, looking for parent volunteers to make banners.</li> <li>• Engage kids who'd like to do this and create a Civic Committee.</li> <li>• School to send out a reminder.</li> </ul> <p><i>SCHOOL TURNS 50</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review historical archives to work out the year so that this can be celebrated.</li> </ul>	
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