

**Chair: Andy Fairchild
Vice-Chair: Rachel Meadows**



**Secretary: Avril Storrie
Treasurer: Karen Black**

Parent Council

**AGENDA - Monday 31st August 2020
ZOOM @ 6.30 PM**

- 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES**
- 2. MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
- 3. UPDATE FROM MRS McFARLANE**
 - a. Covid Updates
 - b. New school Updates
- 4. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE**
- 5. TREASURER REPORT UPDATE**
- 6. FUNDRAISING UPDATE**
- 7. ITEMS RAISED THROUGH PARENT COUNCIL FROM PARENTS**
 - a. What is the protocol if a teacher or pupil contracts COVID
 - b. Daily temperature checks
 - c. Xmas Cards
 - d. Pupil testing - will there be feedback for parents to help children at home - will this be given or do parents need to approach school individually?
- 8. A.O.B**
- 9. REVIEW OF AGREED ACTIONS AND OWNERS**
- 10. Date of next meeting: 05th October 2020 on ZOOM**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GARTCOSH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

31/08/2020 @ 6.30 PM on ZOOM

Present - Mrs McFarlane, Mrs Fisher, Andy Fairchild, Karen Black (treasurer), Nikki Hill, Rachel Meadows, Lorna Todd, Elaine Black, Avril Storrie (secretary), Angela Hughes, Funmi Sanusi, Gemma Boggs, Chris Blair, Michelle Blair

Apologies: Sheila Darkins, Dave Slater

1. WELCOME INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Meeting chaired by Andy Fairchild

2. MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed that as the last meeting was in March 2020 and was predominantly about the new school, that there was no need to discuss this as the world has changed so much since then and we need to focus on moving forward in the ‘new world of COVID’ at this time.

3. UPDATE FROM MRS MCFARLANE

New School - No update. There is lots of progress happening in the background but no official updates have been given. Mrs McFarlane is hoping for some clarification on a few things soon and will update us as soon as there is any new information.

Return to school (COVID)

Mrs McFarlane advised that the children have returned to school and for the most part, have settled back in well. Settling & reassuring the school children, and safety/hygiene are priority at this time.

The school have put staggered lunches & breaks into place to reduce opportunities for children to be in contact with other children outside of their bubble.

The curriculum focusses specifically on literacy, numeracy and the health & wellbeing of the children at this time.

The school are following strict guidance from NL with regards to the safety of our children and they are following a flow chart that has been put together to ensure that the correct processes take place at correct time. The guidance does however keep changing as and when the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire change them, which is inevitable, however parents are to be assured that the school will follow all guidance from SG & NL to prioritise the safety of our children.

Mrs McFarlane confirmed that there have been no positive cases in Gartcosh Primary. It has been noted that parents are understandably airing on the side of caution and if they feel their child is symptomatic they must follow NHS guidance.

If a child appears to be symptomatic in the school they will be transported to the isolation station (computer suite) which means that they can be collected by a parent without the parent having to enter the building. The computer suite will then be thoroughly cleaned, as will the child's classroom. Mrs McFarlane advised that cleaning is a huge part of the school day now and will continue to be to ensure that our children are as safe as possible.

If a whole class needs to isolate, there are provisions in place to allow those children to work from home for 2 weeks by using the GLOW system.

GLOW will be the main platform for homework as jotters need to be untouched for 72 hours when they arrive in school before they can be marked.

Mrs McFarlane will update all parents through our regular newsletters and will keep us all as informed as possible however as stated previously, the school guidance can change very quickly as NL dictate therefore we must trust that the school will follow all of the recommendations they have been given to ensure the safety of our children is a priority.

Breakfast club started last week and currently runs in the school hall. Numbers will be reviewed on a weekly basis to ensure that if the numbers increase then the children will need to be moved to a bigger area. Toast is not available anymore but all other food is still available. The numbers for breakfast club are anticipated to increase.

Today was the first day of hot lunches since schools returned. This has proved to be tricky because of social distancing and ensuring that the food is still of an acceptable temperature when it reaches the children.

Homework - GLOW will be used for homework and more updates will be sent out regarding this in due course. Jotters need to be untouched for 72 hours when they are brought into school therefore using the digital platforms will be much more effective. Mrs Simpson is also going to support the school with training in the 'one-note' system which should have a positive impact on our ability to manage digital homework.

Meet the teacher – Obviously this will not run the same as in previous years as a result of COVID. Each parent will get a letter from their child's teacher.

Parents Night – This will now be a phonecall and more information on this will follow in due course.

5. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

A lengthy discussion took place around traffic near the school however many audits have been completed and we do not meet the criteria for a lollipop person to help our children into school. It was acknowledged that we will never meet this criteria however we will not give up with this and our concerns have been escalated to local MPs and Head of Education. We are awaiting feedback. We discussed ideas such as a 'walking bus'. We acknowledged that the roundabout at Cadder Court is particularly risky. Kerbcraft are no longer available to offer our children lessons on crossing the road. Our JRSO's will continue to think about ways to monitor traffic.

6. TREASURER REPORT UPDATE

Karen Black advised that our current balance is £2886.63.

Discussions around outdoor toys that can be cleaned being the best use of money at this time. Outdoor hardware storage boxes are currently out of stock everywhere but we will keep looking.

7. FUNDRAISING

We acknowledged difficulty fundraising in COVID. Some suggestions discussed included tea towels, 'walk to the moon/walk a million steps' sponsorships. A new parent at the school advised that she does lots of charity work and is happy to help come up with some ideas to help with this. A separate meeting will take place on **21/9/20 7pm** on zoom to discuss this in more detail.

8. ITEMS RAISED THROUGH THE PARENT COUNCIL

Daily temperature checks - A parent asked if the school would consider daily temperature checks (similar to going into restaurants). Mrs McFarlane advised that we could not take this upon ourselves to do it and that this would need to come from Scottish Government/North Lanarkshire guidance.

Christmas cards – opens on 23rd October and was successful when the pictures were drawn inside school last year. We discussed ways of encouraging children to take part in this and the idea of having a 'winner' and that design being used as the school's Christmas card was discussed. Elaine will action this.

Academic teaching– Mrs McFarlane advised that the school's priority is to ensure that the children are safe, settled and well in the school before any academic focus is reintroduced. We acknowledged the impact that COVID has had on our children and acknowledged GIRFEC and the SHANARRI indicators and agreed the mental health and wellbeing of our children was the priority at this time. The school are and will continue to do everything they can to ensure that our children feel safe and secure returning to school. Parents are encouraged to phone the school to discuss if they have any concerns re their child's learning at this time.

9. A.O.B

Friends of Gartcosh – Elaine advised that this community group have been working on a community garden and more will be revealed about this in due course. Discussions around how the school could become involved in this will take place in due course.

10. REVIEW OF AGREED ACTIONS

Next Meeting 05/10/20 18.30pm ZOOM.

