

Chair: Andy Fairchild



Secretary: Avril Storrie
Treasurer: Karen Black

AGENDA – Monday 15th February 2021
ZOOM @ 6.30 PM

- 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES**
- 2. MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
- 3. UPDATE FROM MRS McFARLANE**
 - a. Covid Updates
 - b. Online schooling updates
 - c. New school Updates
- 4. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE**
- 5. TREASURER REPORT UPDATE**
- 6. FUNDRAISING UPDATE**
 - a. Ideas list from parent council members
- 7. ITEMS RAISED THROUGH PARENT COUNCIL FROM PARENTS**
 - a. Playground section being rotated as only p1 get slide and no play items for p2 & p3
 - b. How will children 'catch up' with learning after lockdown - are there any contingency plans in place
 - c. How will intake of p1s impact on school - how does an already 'stretched' school plan to accommodate these numbers?
 - d. P7 - hoodies organized in other schools already
 - e. Massive shout out to the amazing teachers at the school who are doing an incredible job.
- 8. A.O.B**
- 9. REVIEW OF AGREED ACTIONS AND OWNERS**
- 10. Date of next meeting:**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GARTCOSH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

15/02/2021 @ 6.30 PM on ZOOM

Present - Mrs McFarlane, Mrs Fisher, Andy Fairchild, Karen Black (treasurer), Sheila Darkins, Avril Storrie (secretary), Angela Hughes, Gemma Boggs, Charlotte McKinstry, Chris Blair, Nikki Hill, Sophie Barker, Funmi Sanusi

Apologies: Dave Slater

1. WELCOME INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Meeting chaired by Andy Fairchild

2. MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed.

3. UPDATE FROM MRS MCFARLANE

- **Proposed return of pupils** (return to school announcement being made by SG tomorrow 16/02/2021). Assuming this goes ahead:
 - P1-3 will return 08.45-14.45
 - P4-7 will then return as normal 09.00-15.00
 - HT will have meeting Thursday 18th AM and letter will be sent out Thurs PM with more detail of return to school
 - The focus will be on health & wellbeing on return to school – this is a priority at the moment
 - Its important to let children settle back into school and see where they are in terms of their learning as children will have had different experiences/opportunities to engage in learning – staff will identify and help bridge gaps and parents can request to speak to teachers if they wish to discuss their child.
 - Numeracy & Literacy will then be the main learning focus
- **Promethean Boards**
 - £1,700 cost per board (including fitting)
 - 2 installed, 2 getting installed next week, and a further 2 on order
 - 6/8 classrooms will have them
 - Hoping for another 2 to complete the school
- **Enrollments**
 - 40 children enrolled into P1
 - Brings school total to 245
 - Larger number will impact on the set up of classes and classrooms
 - HT is in touch with Education Manager exploring option of a hut
 - The number of children in school can be accommodated however the school is struggling with breakout space

- New school has understandably been delayed so we are just trying to make use of what we can at this time.
- **Staffing**
 - With increased numbers, staffing will increase – details of this will be shared at a later date
- **New School**
 - Understandably delayed
 - No update
 - Negotiations ongoing
 - Any updates on this will be shared as and when appropriate.
- **Digital Learning**
 - Recognition of how long it takes for teachers to prepare and upload learning materials
 - Mrs Simpson is looking into classes perhaps having their own YouTube channel for core learning education videos – extended discussion re the benefits of this.
 - School have ordered 15 I-pads through PEF money which means the school have a total of 65 I-pads
- **Playground**
 - New polytunnel in the playground
 - 3 small sheds have been purchased and school are looking for volunteers to build these – volunteer offers made in meeting.
 - Balance bikes for p1-2 discussed as useful however designated space & lock ups would be required for this.
 - Discussion around children in playground getting access to different equipment, but this is to ensure that children remain in their bubbles and teachers are trying to make it as fair as possible.
- **Other**
 - Testing kits will be available for staff
 - SDQ questionnaire – discussed at length and HT assured still working within GIRFEC and questionnaire results will be anonymous when shared with NL.
 - Shannari Wellbeing Indicator scores dipped but they are back up again.
 - P7 Hooded Sweatshirts – always organised by a P7 parent and HT is happy to remind P7s of this so that someone can organise this.
 - Discussion around how hard it has been for teachers during this time with online schooling from home, with families etc – PC thanked teachers for this on behalf of all parents
 - Mrs Simpson is applying for a grant for technology/resources as technology is her area of expertise
 - Reflecting that P7 leavers celebrations will be different this year. Suggested-outdoor BBQ.

4. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

Not been as much of a focus because children have not been attending school. We will refocus on this now that children are attending school again. Need to nominate someone to take a lead with this role now that Elaine Black is no longer a member of GPC.

5. TREASURER REPORT UPDATE

Karen Black advised that our current balance is £3190.63

- Advent fundraiser raised £1536
- Await total of christmas cards from Elaine Black
- Parents will be asked what their preference would be for how the money is spent (ie sports equipment/trim trail/technology etc)

6. FUNDRAISING

We acknowledged the difficulty of fundraising in COVID-19 and agreed that as a committee we will need to be as creative as possible so a seperate fundraising meeting will be held on 15th March 2021 @18.30pm on Zoom to share ideas.

All PC members agreed to share fundraising ideas on the WhatsApp group to be discussed at the fundraising meeting.

Some suggestions included online quizzes & tea parties

7. ITEMS RAISED THROUGH THE PARENT COUNCIL

- a. Playground section being rotated as only p1 get slide and no play items for p2 & p3
 - i. HT explained that the children were in 'bubbles' and that the teachers were trying to make it as fair as possible whilst still keeping our children safe
- b. How will children 'catch up' with learning after lockdown - are there any contingency plans in place
 - i. HT advised health & wellbeing of all children will be the priority and then teachers will see how each child is doing individually and support the child accordingly. Parents are encouraged to speak to individual teachers if they are concerned about their child's progress
- c. How will intake of p1s impact on school - how does an already 'stretched' school plan to accommodate these numbers?
 - i. See section above 'Enrollment'
- d. P7 hoodies organized in other schools already
 - i. HT will remind P7 parents that P7 parents organize this each year
- e. Massive shout out to the amazing teachers at the school who are doing an incredible job
 - i. Graciously accepted by school.

8. A.O.B

None

9. REVIEW OF AGREED ACTIONS

10. Date of Next Meeting

29/03/2021 18.30pm ZOOM.