**Holy Cross Primary Parent Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 24th February 2016 – 7-8pm**

**Present:** Andrea Kelly – Chairperson

Donna Carrigan – Vice Chairperson

Donna Wallace - Secretary

Anne-Marie Maloney – Secretary PTG

Sharon Quinn – Parent

Marie Lang – Parent

Carey Kearney - Parent

Robert O’Donnell – Church Representative

Marie Murphy – Head Teacher

Katrina McKenna – Teacher

Patricia Kinnaird – Office (minutes)

**Apologies:** Lynn Kelly – Parent

1. Welcome - Mrs Kelly opened the meeting by asking if the previous meeting minutes were agreed by all, these were agreed.
2. Mrs Murphy then spoke on her report in which a copy was issued to everyone.

Improvement Plan – Robert Dalzell, QIS had visited the school on 11th February to discuss this at length with Mrs Murphy. He was very happy with the development work being undertaken in the school. As Mrs Murphy is a new Head Teacher, keeping in touch is important to ensure that Literacy, Maths and Self Evaluation are being undertaken at the school.

Language – novels have updated and stocked for our P4-7’s. Staff are progressing well with literacy and spelling with some new changes that have been rolled out in within the school, these will be further developed in August. Mrs Murphy will also investigate sponsored read with Scotia Books, who are one of our local book suppliers.

ICT – as part of our service agreement 15 computers were identified as being obsolete, we have been fortunate to get 14 of these replaced and will receive these in the next few months.

Maths & Numeracy – there has been a lot of development work supported by Lynda Keith, who has worked with staff to enhance these areas. Ongoing evaluation will continue and how best to support pupils in these areas. Teaching staff now have access to Heinemann Maths on line. This is a great resource that helps support the teachers with class work.

Andrea Kelly had asked about “Glow” and if pupils still had access to use it. Mrs Murphy explained that it changed over to a different site and everyone needs time to update themselves and go over what is new. (Mrs McKenna said there are a variety of online resources that pupils can access at home if we have snow days etc.) She also said that when pupils access it the activities are based on the pupils own level and ties up with what they get in school and for homework. Our school website also has a snow days section.

Mrs Murphy spoke about Holy Cross being registered to take part in UNICEF’s Rights Respecting Schools Award. We are currently working towards our entry level award, Recognition of Commitment. The pupil action group will take this forward. We are also looking at a parent possibly joining the group to get some input from them.

Mrs Murphy will be attending a meeting on Friday 26th February regarding the NLC Budget cuts. Support staff and Clerical staff will be affected but not teaching staff. Until the information is released we will not know how this will impact on the schools staffing levels, especially for buses and playground duty. Mrs Murphy will report back to all staff on Friday after she returns from the meeting with an update.

There has been no more information on the window/linoleum situation from Ian Smith at Contracts NLC. Replacement windows on the ground floor classrooms is estimated to cost around £25k. We have had a new outside front door, the inner door should hopefully be fitted soon.

The school has recently bought some new I Pads (20) which the PTG will cover the cost of 10 (£2500.00) and also the Panto/Giggles at a cost of £600.00. Mrs Wallace will organise cheques.

This week in school we have had Careers Week. It has been a very successful week with both the parents and pupils really enjoying it, we have had a lot of support from parents coming in and telling us about their jobs. Bishop Peter Moran will visit the school on Friday, he was a former pupil at Holy Cross and will speak to the Primary 7 classes.

Skills Development Scotland are coming to visit one of the Primary 7

classes next week. They are the national skills organisation supporting

young people and businesses of Scotland. They will be filming/photographing some of the pupils to use in their promotional and resource materials which they are developing for primary pupils.

We also had STV News in the Nursery filming some of our staff re a STV News report re teachers in nurseries. This has changed a lot in the last few years within the authority.

There will be a Spring Disco on Thursday 31st March if there are sufficient parent volunteers from the PTG, on this occasion we will need extra volunteers. There is also an Easter Bonnet competition and also a Fairtrade Assembly. We will also be organising an egg drop competition for the pupils and a non-uniform day also.

Parents Evening is on Thursday 17th March. We will also have our Book fair that week. We have been asked to help donate clothes and shoes for the Serbian Refugees who are linked to a charity called Caring City in Glasgow. We will be collecting on Friday 4th March and the donations will be uplifted on Monday 7th March. We now have 280 followers on our Twitter page. We have also updated the school website and staff will be blogging, along with the newsletter and other school information. We hope to start emailing our newsletter and will ask for email addresses at parents evening.

1. Mrs Kelly had attended a Parent Consultation group meeting with NLC re attainment. There will be extra money available next year from the Scottish Government for children from deprived areas. Schools can access the money if they meet the criteria. Mrs Murphy explained that as part of the Universal Offer the school had Solihull Training, costs of CEM Assessments were being covered and the Nursery would be working with Mindstretchers. Holy Cross does get some money in the school budget for early intervention and this is spent on pupils needs.
2. Mrs Murphy explained the new NLC assessment process for pupils when they start in P1. They will now be assessed in P1, 3, 5 & 7 to see where they are overall at these stages. This new assessment is set out on improving standards for all children, improve attainment particularly in literacy and numeracy, although sometimes there can be additional issues that can effect pupils learning.
3. Parent Council/PTG are looking at ways of getting information to all parents re school matters. Parent questionnaires are a good way of getting some feedback on what kind of information parents are looking for, these were given out at the Parents Open Evening in September. We do put information on the school website but, if parents need to speak to a member of the management, they can call to speak to someone or make an appointment or if available in the morning or at the end of the day they can come to reception where staff can check if someone is available.

It was suggested that perhaps the parent council could set up a stall at the parents evening to gather information on how best information can be passed on to parents – TBC.

AOB – Sharon Quinn had said that she could not access First Class, Patricia has since called HQ who have now fixed the issue.

1. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd May at 7pm.