Orchard Primary School Parent Council

Meeting Tuesday 24/10/17

Present: Fiona Graham (chair) Suzanne Crossen Helen McPherson

Rhona Campbell Lesley Mitchell Jenny MacLeod

Arelene Sloan Fiona McGough Carly Thurlow

Michelle Gray Sarah Gibson Anne Dexter

Jennifer Kerr Jill Woodward(HT) Helen Mackenzie (DHT)

Lesley Histead (Clerk)

Apologies Carolyn Leckie Lauren Anthony Denise Brock

* Welcome - Fiona welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new session. Fiona introduced herself and wished Orchard PS a happy 1st birthday. She went on to outline what she hoped the parent council would achieve. She welcomed Anne Dexter and Jennifer Kerr (Trustees of the LCSC support group) for coming to talk to us.
* Treasurer – Fiona informed the Council that we did not have a Treasurer at the moment and wondered if someone could volunteer. Sarah Gibson said she would do it. Fiona then wondered who had the cheque book etc. Jan Daveney who was treasurer last year still has all the stuff will contact to get it passed on.
* Playground update - as we know the mainstream playground has been done and now we are moving on to hopefully get the LCSC playground started. When Fiona took over she met with Anne to find out a bit more about the LCSC support group and how they were getting on with their fund raising. Anne explained to the group that LCSC support group was set up primly as a support group for parents to get together with other parents who had a common ground to talk about problems and share information they had. The fundraising came about as Anne was passionate about brightening up the playground for the children. They decided to register as a charity as it would open up more opportunities for fund raising. So far they have raised £71,000. The final total to do all areas is £102,000. At the moment they are still waiting for the land to be signed over before they can start anything. A discussion took place with regard to what funding they are still waiting to get. So any fundraising the Parent Council do will go towards the LCSC playground. Fiona thanked Anne and Jennifer for coming along.
* HT update – we are now into term two and on Friday we will have been open a year from the official opening. Everyone has settled back well we have 54 in LCSC 174 mainstream and 36 Nursery.
* The newsletter has been emailed out via our new messenger service. We will be emailing as much as possible to cut down on cost. Those who don’t have an email will still get hard copies.
* There are various ways we communicate, twitter is used a lot but not necessarily the best way to ask questions but Jill will try to answer any questions that come up.
* Lots of partnerships coming into school at the moment all of which are mentioned in the newsletter
* Jill outlined some of the events that were coming up again these were listed in the newsletter.
* Jill spoke about the pupil voice groups throughout the school and that every child is a member of one. A new one which has been set up recently is the school improvement plan. The children in the group will be putting together a child friendly school improvement plan which will be given out to all the children. Jill would hope that this group will come along to the Parent Council in the summer term to let them know what they have been doing.
* Some other things that the children will have access to will be Microsoft 365 which all children can use free of charge through glow, we have trialed a new online booking system for the parents night on the 2/11. Shortly we will be launching Too toot which is a digital pupil voice. Children will be able to go onto this sight to report any issues they are having if they are unable to talk to a grown up face to face. It will be trialed from P5-P7 initially and it will only be the management who will have access to see what children have written and it will be them who will speak to the relevant children about their problems. This is also going to be trialed in the high school as well.
* Staffing- Carol Forrest the LCSC new teacher is starting 6/11. Jackie Donnelly is on long term sick at the moment but we have cover for her two days. Lesley Niven went on maternity leave at the start of the October holidays we do not have anyone to replace her as North Lanarkshire are struggling with staff cover. At present we have a shortage of 1.4 FTE if we do not get cover this money will be put into our budget to be spent.
* Jill has been made aware that there were problems with getting uniform over the summer we are looking into other suppliers at the moment.
* We have football strips and we would like to thank Denise Farrell for sorting this out for us.
* We have all our Christmas activities planned and these will be put into the next newsletter. We have decided not to have a Halloween parade this year. We are having a Christmas concert this year which will involve all the school. Jill wanted the parents know that for all the dress down days we have the cost is only a donation and if parents can’t afford it then it is not a problem. It is a quick and fun way to raise some money for the school fund which is quite low at the moment.
* NLC are coming out to validate the school shortly on the 13/14th November. This is done when a school has not been inspected for a long term to help prepare for if they are. The validation team will be made up of 5 people and they would like to speak to a group from the parent council on 13/11 at 2pm. If you would be interested in doing this please let us know.
* Up and coming events – Fiona explained that as she has just taken over as chair she is still getting to grips with what had been planned. We missed the last bag packing date at Morrison’s but have been offered another date 30/12. A discussion took place whether this date would be any good. We had to cancel the proposed race night on the 7/11 as we did not have enough time to get things organised. We will go ahead with the Christmas hampers which we sold raffle tickets for at last year’s craft afternoon. A discussion took place with regard to what else we could do. It was decided to get some more football cards as this was a quick and good fund raiser.
* AOB – A discussion took place re our football team and attending the football festivals. It was decided that Helen and Denise would come in and meet with Elaine Dyer to talk about it.
* The Parent Council wondered if a uniform swap shop could be set up maybe at the parents night. Jill had no problem with this and she said that the uniform bank that we had at the moment would be available for parents to see at the parent night. A discussion took place re this.
* The Parent Council area on the blog was out of date and they asked if it could be updated. Jill said that she would speak to the teacher who was dealing with this and get it sorted also Lesley will send the minutes of each meeting to her and they would be put on the blog as well.
* Fiona asked if it was ok to have an extra meeting as the one in December would be too close to the Christmas event to get things organised. Lesley to book a let for 21/11/17 and Fiona wanted to re look at the constitution at that meeting