



St Brendan's
Primary School and Nursery
45 Barons Road
Motherwell
ML1 2NB

Parents Council Meeting

Date: 04/10/22

Time: 18.00

Meeting chaired by : Donna Matthewman

Distribution of Minutes:

All attendees
Catherine Sweeney
Motherwell Cllrs

Attendees :

- Mrs Oates (HT - MO)
- Mrs Colton (APT - MC)
- Mrs Cassidy (Clerk – MCA)
- Donna Matthewman (C - DM)
- Lisa Hewitt (VC – LH)
- Lesley-Ann Henderson (SEC - LAH)
- Adelle Douglas (TRE – AD)
- Amy Dornan (AD)
- Collette Feeney (CF)
- Kate Anderson (KA)
- Lynne Kellas (LK)
- Lynsey Chambers (LC)
- Kenneth Duffy (KD)

Apologies:

- Martin Grey (MG)



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<u>Reference</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Action by</u>
1.00	HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT (MO)	
1.01	<p><u>Staffing</u> - update given including how the cluster process is working to support the children especially with Covid impacting teaching staff. Miss Smith is our Probationer this year with Mrs Bridge being her mentor. DM asked for clarification on covering the absent PT post and as such the absence of a teacher rep on the Parent Council. MO confirmed that the absence of the PT is being covered internally prioritising the class cover and Mrs Colton and Miss Burns have agreed to alternate PC meetings to ensure there is a teacher represented at the PC meetings.</p>	
1.02	<p><u>Awards/Inspections</u> - We are going for a Reading School Accreditation and we're going for our Silver Rights Respecting School Award and the assessment for this will be just after the October school holiday. The school are expecting HMI visit soon although no indication as to when within the school year.</p>	
1.03	<p><u>School Activities</u> – After school clubs now up and running. P7s trained as 'sports leaders' and some now running the P2 after school club. Pope Francis Award underway. Skills Academies launched and will be the 1st Thurs of each month. This will include the nursery children and will encourage creativity, life skills, technology etc and will have a focus on the wellbeing indicators this year. Various visitors booked in to support the skills academies and the theme of safety, such as Police, Fire Brigade, SSPC etc. P7 Bike Ability has taken place and peer mediation about to start.</p>	
1.04	<p><u>Assembly</u> – every Wednesday in the hall and is split as follows: P1-3 (Mrs Oates, HT), P4-5 (Miss Burns, APT) and P6-7 (Mrs Colton, PT).</p>	
1.05	<p>Education & Families Manager Pauline O'Neill – they have been out to visit our school already and will be back soon. A 'RAG' (red, amber, green) report determines how much support our school will receive from the council. More to follow.</p>	
1.06	<p><u>Training/Support</u> – Focus on health & wellbeing and maths. Read, write, ink runs daily in P5-7. Cluster has put a bid in for additional funding to support our lowest attending children. P4 are running a pilot doing their learning through play supported by training from Our Educational Psych. Initial data is encouraging but we need more to know how far we want to go with it. Collaborative learning for staff is up and running</p>	
1.07	<p><u>Nursery Transition</u> – this has already begun and going well. A bit of work to be done around loving lunches. Great for transition but difficult to juggle lunch times in the hall for all St Brendan's children while we need to deliver 2 hours of PE for all so it's a work in progress.</p>	



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1.08	<p><u>Digital Update</u> – Miss Burns has been one of NLC's Digital Pathfinders but still worked very closely with the school. We now have a new Digital Pathfinder who is going through the handover process with Miss Burns. Digital remains a main focus/priority in the school and we're concentrating on enhancing digital learning at early years, cyber resilience/internet safety, data gathering etc. Miss Burns will be covering McCrone time which will mainly be digital time. We were successful in obtaining grants/extra funding which has enabled us to buy lots of new and exciting resources such as 'sphere robots' which the children are excited to use. Our 'Digi-Den' is fully timetabled and used all week. Next term a Coding Club will be offered to parents and children in the upper school. We continue to work closely with our Parent Fundraising Group who have fundraised to purchase new PCs. We're going for our Digital Schools Award too (more to follow).</p>	
1.09	<p><u>Maths Resources</u> – We're moving away from using the Sumdog app as it's no longer supported by the authority. Instead, we're going to trial 'Mathletics' and that trial will determine if we'll move forward with that platform. It is more expensive than Sumdog but we believe will deliver greater benefits to the children.</p>	
2.00	<p><u>SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY</u></p>	
2.01	<p>DM led this update in the absence of MG. DM summarised that representatives from the PC attended a recent meeting to discuss the proposal of the PC Social Media strategy in a bid to reach as many parents/families as possible. The output was then shared with Mrs Oates who was happy to proceed.</p> <p>DM obtained consensus at tonight's meeting that the proposal will go ahead, and next steps will follow soon.</p>	
3.00	<p><u>HOMEWORK</u></p>	
3.01	<p>LAH raised on behalf of parents, there have been some difficulties with the current homework strategy, in particular when it's online and children have to copy a lot of their written maths. Eg doing hundreds/tens/units – this exercise in particular involved a lot of copying/writing and some expressed concerns that it was too much alongside the other pieces of homework in the week.</p> <p>MO acknowledged that topic involved a lot of writing and will consider the volume. She explained that homework is really a celebration of success and is a great way to show case to parents/carers what the children are doing. It's also a good way to generate points for discussion at parents' night etc.</p> <p>PC members agreed it's good to have a mix of written and online maths and this was favoured in past PC meetings.</p>	



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LC asked if homework is mandatory. MO confirmed no, but it is very much encouraged and can benefit the children's learning. Homework is also used to consolidate topics by drip feeding revision topics later in the academic year.

LAH asked if maths homework jotters could be given out. MO explained due to stock, online lined jotters were given out but now in a position to issue maths ones once the current jotters are used.

4.00 ROAD SAFETY

4.01 In the absence of MG, it was agreed he would circulate an update to the PC members.

5.0 COST OF LIVING

5.01 PC wanted to acknowledge the cost-of-living crisis and to raise with the school that although there is always a need to fundraise, we should be mindful of the types of fundraising activities that are in plan and to think about alternative approaches to donations where appropriate. One example shared was on bring a £1 to school schools could we ask for £1 **OR** something for a foodbank donation etc. Also, to consider that this crisis will also be affecting families who regularly contribute as it is a wide scale problem.

MO advised the Financial Inclusion Officer is coming along to Parent's Night on 12/10/22 and will be on hand for advice and will have information to hand out etc.

AD confirmed the Parent Fundraising Committee was meeting later this evening to discuss future fundraising and said she would discuss this with the group.

School Clothing Bank @ St Brendan's School – we discussed how we remove the stigma around using pre-loved items. People have been so generous in donating preloved items, but MO and the PC are keen for it to be as popular in the opposite way too. It would be great if more families used the service.

LH shared how another local school is using an email system where items can be requested via email and the items are discreetly placed in the child's school bag to take home. MO and MCA to look into this for St Brendan's

6.0 P7 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

6.01 Several options have been explored re costs and availability. Fundraising specific for P7 trip will be organised.



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MO confirmed that her staff are already looking at securing dates for the next years P7s so that payment plans can be set up etc. More to follow.

Further PC meetings scheduled –

17th January 2023

25 April 2023

6 June 2023