



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

## Parents Council Meeting

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Date : 29/04/24

Time : 18.00

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Meeting chaired by: Lisa Hewitt

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### Distribution of Minutes:

All attendees  
Catherine Sweeney  
Motherwell Cllrs

### Attendees :

- Mrs Oates (HT)
- Lisa Hewitt (Chair)
- Donna Matthewman
- Lesley-Ann Henderson
- Mrs Burns
- Louise Curley
- Chloe Robertson
- Karen Nailen (Secretary)
- Collette Feeney (CF)
- Kate Anderson (KA)

Apologies: None



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## **1. Welcome**

Lisa welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and noted the busy agenda for the meeting.

## **2. Previous minutes and review of actions**

Lisa updated that she has now been in touch with the other schools in NL / SL who have brown in their uniform looking for support regarding the shortage of brown suppliers. One response has been received so far and it was noted that it may be because it's sent to the general school e-mail addresses. Mrs Oates will help with contacting the other schools still to respond.

Lisa plans on writing to M&S and Asda who used to stock the brown. Lisa read out the letter and plans to include pictures of uniform and handwritten letters from the kids as this may carry more weight. Everyone agreed the letter sounds great and the level of work that has gone into this. Lisa will get this sent. Was suggested that for Asda maybe a local approach may also be helpful, starting with the community champion who has been helpful in the past.

## **3. Homework survey**

Mrs Oates gave an overview of the survey results for the homework which included the staff comments on homework. There is an almost a 50/50 split with support for and against homework.

There was a discussion on some of the reasons people are supportive / not supportive and discussions on what the risks would be to remove and/or retain in its current format. It was agreed it was a difficult call due to the split in opinion.

It was also very importantly noted that attainment is high in the school and where some children have needed some additional support that there has been some very positive progress made with this. It was also noted that reading homework is very important as children need to know this to progress learning in the classroom.

After lots of very helpful and useful discussions it was agreed that Mrs Oates will pilot doing different formats of homework as the terms progress which may include reading only and other different samples and then review again.

Please see previous newsletter for these results and more to follow from the school.

## **4. Uniform update**

Lisa has spoken with Miyo who have agreed to increase brown uniform order as they now have invested in more space to store, they will also keep the prices the same or maybe a small reduction.

Miyo will be attending the creativity showcase that the school is arranging (planned for 12<sup>th</sup> June – more info to follow from the school) and they will have uniform options on showcase and parents can place an order. If ordering on the day they will receive a discount, and the amount has still be to negotiated with them. They will now also be manufacturing their own brown pinafore.



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It was also discussed and agreed that as BE uniforms no longer have a local presence we do not need to ask them to the creativity showcase which is planned for June.

#### **5. Fundraising committee update / family night**

Kate updated that the family night planned for end April didn't sell a lot of tickets as people had a lot going so, they have moved the date. One of the parents has done brilliant collecting raffle prizes. The evening will now be on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Lisa reported that Michael has now updated the bank signatories but have now encountered some issues with online banking they so will need to go into bank and sort out.

#### **6. ICT Update**

Mrs Oates reported that she has been looking at new ways of sharing learning progress with parents. Seesaw was pulled by NLC due to the high costs so the school have been looking for alternatives. Mrs Burns has been looking at profiles and showed an example to which everyone said looked good. It would mean if progressing this that all classes would need to have additional iPad to set up and have specifically for teachers to upload on profile and share.

This would require the purchase of 11 new Ipads for staff at a cost of around £4000. Mrs Oates requested that the PC pay for the Ipads from their funds which would allow the school to invest in a system to share children's learning. It will be a one-off cost rather than an annual ongoing costs of other options. All agreed this would be good use of monies as all children and parents will be able to access the benefits of this. Kate will sense check this with the rest of the fundraising committee and the Ipads can then be purchased. The fundraising committee have enough funds to pay for them.

#### **7. Sharing of nursery dates/plans**

A request was made for the nursery to release dates earlier to allow parents to plan better/get time off. The nursery summer day trip date was issued with 6 weeks' notice, but others have events can be short notice. This will be noted and work towards as soon as events are confirmed the date will be issued asap but noted delays can be caused by external factors like booking buses etc.

#### **8. Use of car park**

The new morning drop off point in the church car park is working well and the PC noted that we are grateful to Fr Ricky and Fr James for allowing us to do so.

It was noted that there continues to be an issue with parking at the church car park but was noted that in the main it was one individual that is causing hazards, and this has been raised by parents and with representatives from the church. Mrs Oates had already spoken to the individual but will raise again. We do not want to lose this drop off facility as it's been a positive step in reducing traffic volume on Barons Rd, making it a safer situation for our children. It is therefore important that parents/carers use the car park safely.

All agreed that as a reminder, a condition of use policy will be draw up and a reminder will be added to the Facebook page.



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### 9. Thanks to staff

The Pc would like to pass on their gratitude and huge thanks to all staff for supporting the fundraising efforts for the P7 residential. Was noted that there were great efforts made by parents and the time away was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils.

### 10. Head teacher update

#### Panto and buses

The school have been looking at options for the panto this year which have included Kings £27 per head for ticket and bus and Festival £26.50 Kings theatre. The date being suggested is 16<sup>th</sup> December. All agreed the Kings theatre will be a great experience for the kids, and the panto also comes highly recommended.

Low omissions zone is causing an issue with booking of buses and some companies on registered suppliers list will not be able to take buses into Edinburgh, so supply and demand is an issue.

The fundraising group will plan some activities in August which will look at contributing to reduce the costs of this.

#### Building work

All is going well, and great progress is being made with outdoor classroom. New blinds will be fitted within next couple of weeks. All this is being paid by insurance following the storm.

#### Twitter

Mrs Oates reminded parents and request support for non-use of Twitter and instead more use of the blogs being produced by the school.

#### Parents questionnaire

The responses to the questionnaire were positive and some very useful and positive comments. Attached is the survey results for information.

#### Creativity showcase

This is planned for June and the schools are looking forward to welcoming parents into the school.

### 11. AOB

#### Action list

Action	Who
Re-send uniform letters to NL/SL schools	Lisa
Send letter to Asda and M&S	Lisa
Draw up conditions of use for car parking at the Church	Parent council and parish
Sense check purchase of iPad with fundraising committee	Kate
Purchase of iPad x 11	Mrs Oates
Update details for online banking	Lisa and Michael
Fundraising for Panto	Fundraising committee



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