

Whitelees Primary School and Nursery Class

Parent Council AGM - Minutes

2nd November 2023 – 18.30



IN ATTENDANCE:

Parent Council – Lindsay Wingate, Sarah Bradley, Donna Waddell, Dawn MacPherson, Deborah Brass, Emily Sands, Eve Tennant, Fiona Kerr, Kirsty MacKenzie, Kim Bell, Laura Ridley,

WPS & NC- Laura Murdoch, Carol Stewart, Gioia McAuley

Apologies: Debbie Welsford, Elaine Stewart, Laura Ridley

Absent : Danielle Scott

Minutes agreed by Lindsay Wingate

Minutes seconded by Fiona Kerr

The meeting was held online and hosted by the chairperson, Lindsay. The meeting was started with a warm welcome to everyone.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The PC have been busy undertaking a variety of tasks:

Christmas Cards

Thank you to Donna and helpers for all their hard work organising the Christmas stationery. The quality of art work was particularly high again this year. Although this is not a main source of fundraising for the PC it remains a very popular choice with the parent forum and the Parent Council have received lots of positive feedback from parents. Christmas cards have been sent away and have arrived back in school. Earlier chosen slot earns more funds for the school. Donna to come in and get the cards out to children. Room required to check orders and get out to teachers. Information gathered on who ordered. There has been a good uptake from classes. Donna provided an update that 6 boxes of orders have arrived and will be sorted into classes and sent home asap.

Autumn Disco

Preparation is well underway for the upcoming Disco which has a 'Whitelees Wonka Chocolate Extravaganza' theme. We have planned our usual games, music, competitions and tattoos but we also have some chocolate surprises and sweet and sour bags to offer the attendees. It is shaping up to be another fun event. The P7 children have helped design posters which will be put up around the school. PC agreed to stay on after this meeting to run through the arrangements quickly.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre is fast approaching and once the disco has taken place we will increase our community engagement for the fayre. There has been a group of volunteers who have been busy collecting raffle prizes and we are certain we will once again be able to offer an amazing collection of prizes. Sarah will prepare the raffle pro-forma which will go home with the children after the disco. The cut-off date for the pre-sales will be Monday 20th November. We are delighted to offer an all-inclusive Santa experience again this year.

Playground Improvement Project

Unfortunately, we are no further forward with our playground improvement plans. Mrs Murdoch has been chasing this up the appropriate departments on our behalf to progress with the necessary arrangements. Both parties will continue to pursue this matter. It is disappointing the length of time this is taking but it is essential that we work within the correct procedures to ensure the fundraising money is spent within the correct guidelines ensuring the children gain the most from these improvements. Lindsay welcomed any suggestions how we can proceed with this plan. Should anyone have any suggestions we would welcome their feedback.

PVG's

We are keen to get our new volunteers PVG'd ASAP. Sarah agreed to support with this and also show other members how this process works so they can assist with future arrangements.

The Constitution

The constitution was circulated to members on Monday for their perusal. We welcome any changes/additions. Due to a lack of members unable to complete this task we agreed the deadline would be changed to Monday 6th November. Once the changes have been agreed the constitution will be circulated to the wider parent forum.

Christmas Show

After the fayre it's straight into school show mode and the PC will be supporting the school in the normal fashion with a stall full of refreshments and goodies. The PC were advised that Lindsay will be absent during this period but the school will be in good hands with our wonderful volunteers on board.

HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

Primary 7 Coffee Morning

Primary 7 hosted their second annual Coffee Morning in September. This was very well attended and feedback from the event was extremely positive. Money raised was split equally between Macmillan Cancer Care and the Primary 7 Leavers' Fund.

Parents Evening

We hosted our first Parents' Evening of the session just before the October Break. It was a lovely evening sharing progress of the children. We had lots of positive feedback. All parents agreed their children liked being a pupil at Whitelees, felt safe at Whitelees and that we knew the children well as individuals, with appropriate support being offered to enable the children to do well. There were also several comments saying how lovely the school environment and atmosphere was.

Rags to Riches Fundraiser

This is the first time we've taken part in the Rags to Riches initiative. Again, this was very successful with 96 bags being uplifted and a total of £237 raised. This will all go towards funding the Pantos in December. We will repeat this again in February and then again in the summer term, funds raised from these will go towards the summer school trips.

Vision and Values Catch Up

In September we invited parents in as part of our school vision, values and aims refresh. We had around 10 parents who came to share their views. We had some great discussions and there was a suggestion that we would do another one so this has been added to the calendar for Thursday 16th November 2:00-3:00pm.

Strathclyde Park

The primary 7 children have nearly completed their week at Strathclyde Park. The children have had a fantastic time and had an opportunity to experience new activities, despite the weather!

School Self-Evaluation

In September, and again next week we are engaging in whole school self-evaluation. Senior Management have been in all classes observing literacy and numeracy lessons. Across the classes there is a great working environment and a lovely ethos. We have established some small groups of children who are working on interventions with Mrs Rodman, Mrs Allan and Miss MacKenzie. The focus this term is on literacy and taught writing. This is helping to support and challenge learners, helping to build confidence in smaller groups and give the teacher time to work on concepts.

World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is 13th November and starts off with Anti Bullying Week. During this time, we will have a whole school focus on kindness and anti-bullying - sometimes the word bullying is used so children need to know what bullying is and isn't. We will have focussed workshops and assemblies as well as a theatre company visit on Tuesday 14th November.

New Team System

This year the school will be bringing the house system back to Whitelees. Although there will be a Whitelees twist as the children will be in teams rather than houses. The children were consulted on what they would like their new team names to be. There were lots of suggestions and the children voted for Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

Currently the school are purchasing tokens which will be used in a similar way to the token set up in Asda and Tesco. The children also choose the colours that they would like which was pastel colours. Each month there will be a reward for the team that has the most tokens.

The children are very excited about the new teams being in place and are looking forward to participating in team events.

Nursery

We have 2 new members of staff and a student in the nursery until the end of June.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer and Vice Treasurer Lindsay provided a financial overview. There was no official report prepared for the meeting because there is not much change since the AGM except minor expenses for disco and the intake of Christmas cards funds. A full update will be provided at the next meeting.

AOB:

Children In Need

As in previous years we will advertise that children can bring a tombola prize for Children in Need instead of a monetary donation. PC to come in on Friday (17th Nov) to organise prizes. Pink room will be available the week before the Fayre to set up. As in previous years the PC will make a donation to Children in Need from the Christmas Fayre profits. Children in Need will be a crazy hair day/dress down day. Laura will make a poster to be sent to parents.

PC will set up a Christmas Jumper Swap stall before December. Outdoor jackets are available every day at the main reception, parents can come and help themselves to the jackets on the rack.

Walking bus

The walking bus hasn't taken place since before Covid. This was previously held during health week which may possibly happen again this year. It would not be possible for this to happen every day as staff currently volunteer for after school clubs. Possible date in May for the walking bus as May usually brings nicer weather. Several volunteers would be required for this. PC are more than welcome to lead this and Laura is happy to support Fiona in this.

Gym T-shirts

As gym T shirts are now worn all day instead of 1-2 hours they start to look grey and stained etc sooner. Adults have asked for a change in colour to be considered. Blue tops and shorts were an option but parents continued to choose white. Royal blue T-shirts is still an option. It was previously agreed white was the cheapest, easiest option with less washing required. Royal blue T shirts from Scotcrest will be available on the website if parents wish to purchase this colour.

A message was sent out on the school app asking that all children have a change of clothes in their bag to lessen the disruption for parents as, due to the weather, more children are getting dirty/wet during the school day. These can be kept in school. PC possibly fund drawstring bag.

Kim to bring books in for the nursery.

The choir will perform at Cumbernauld Academy Christmas Fayre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

No other questions raised.

All meetings will be held via a combination of online platform and in person at 18:30 on the following dates:

1st February 2024 – In school

2nd May 2024 – In school