

Whitelees Primary School and Nursery Class

Parent Council Meeting - Minutes

30th January – 18.30



IN ATTENDANCE:

Kim Bell, Emily Sands, Kirsty Mackenzie, Fiona Kerr, Danielle Scott, Deborah Brass, Aileen Lewis, Kirsty Bowman, Katie McGarvie, Lynsey Wright, Elaine Stewart, Susan Graham and Eve Tennant

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

Apologies: Kirsty Bowman, Aileen Lewis, Kirsty MacKenzie, Danielle Scott, Katie McGarvie

Minutes agreed by: Eve Tennant

Minutes seconded by: Emily Sands

The meeting was held online. The meeting was started with a warm welcome to everyone and a thank you to everyone for attending.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Kim welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Kim gave a run-down of the first few months with the new Parent Council.

- The new PC have achieved a lot since coming together in September 2024 and are working well as a team. They have held two very successful events so far – the disco and Christmas Fayre which were well attended and generated a very good return.
- The trim trail in the school playground is taking shape with the installation happening this week. Installation should be complete and ready for the rubber chippings to be laid for the Grand Opening on Monday 10th February. The PC will provide refreshments for this.
- The ordering of P7 leavers hoodies are underway.
- Volunteers are required for both the PC Disco on 13th February and the Book Fayre on 25th February.
- Asda Cashpot money is being distributed. This money will be ringfenced for future development of the playground area.

Whitelees PS Parent Council Treasurer Report January 2025

Finance Report:

Income		Expenditure	
Disco	£809.67	Playground	£10460
Fayre	£2600.34	Skip Hire	£200
Show	£381.97	Rubber Chippings	£615.69
Christmas Cards	£334.60		

From the playground fund of £13000 there is a balance of £1724.31

Bank Balance - £7149.79 including £1724.31 playground fund.

Skip, edging and stock still to be deducted leaving more than £5000 in the bank.

The Parent Council made a commitment to donate to Children in Need from the Christmas Fayre profits. Donating a percentage of the tombola stall profits was discussed and 20% was agreed. Emily will add this to the PC Christmas Fayre guide.

Ringfencing a percentage of the Asda Cashpot for future playground upgrades was discussed. It was agreed to hold a minimum balance in the account for this. Upgrades to the playground could include painting games on the new tarmac by a professional. Keeping a percentage of the fund each year for playground upgrades was agreed.

Laura asked what other things the children might like in the playground.

- Kirsty offered to make enquiries about the costs for professional playground painting.
- LM said we could order through PECOS which would mean no VAT was payable.
- A friendship bench was suggested.
- LM said the children had asked for new goals – it was suggested these could be funded using the excess money for the playground and the school with each paying half the cost.
- A gazebo was also suggested. Costco have an inexpensive gazebo however Costco is not on the system so could not be purchased through PECOS. Kirsty offered the help of her husband Andy, who is a joiner who could build a gazebo which meant we could possibly afford to get two.
- Benches for the children were also suggested. LM said we already had benches around the playground which could possibly be pulled together to create a more sociable space.

PC to discuss finances re playground.

HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

LM praised the work of the PC and acknowledged the Incredible amount of work that goes on behind the scenes.

Enterprise

The class Christmas Enterprise raised approximately £1000 which the school will invest in new subscriptions, namely Book Creator, Widgets Online and Language Angels to enhance the children's learning experiences.

PEF

A recent parental survey indicated that children wanted more play. As well as Miss Mackenzie PEF is also paying for Love Outdoor Learning. We invested in a full staff inset day training with Love Outdoor Learning to raise teachers' skills and confidence in outdoor learning. The children are now out a lot more and loving it.

Life Vac

Angela Mason, a former PC member who works in Spar, Condorrat has been working tirelessly with companies and NLC procurement to introduce choking aids into schools. We are privileged to be the first school in Scotland and North Lanarkshire Council to receive this device which has been fully funded by Spar Clyne Condorrat.

Grand opening

The children are so excited to see our playground improvements come to life. The Grand Opening is planned for Monday 10th February, all going well. We are sourcing an oversized ribbon and scissors for the event and have invited local Councillors and the Parent Council. Weather permitting, we will have speakers set up outside and the PC Chair Kim Bell will cut the ribbon. Primary 1 will be the first to try out the new trim trail with the rest of the classes having a session across the day. The PC will run a coffee afternoon with the help of the primary 7 children and hopefully donate some of the profits to the P7 leavers events. The Coffee Afternoon will run from 1.45pm – 2.15pm then parents can join their children in their classes. A separate time will be arranged for a stay and play with the nursery, LM will speak to Miss Ramsay regarding this. A further time will be arranged for our high school children to return and try out the new playground when staff will be available.

Laura finished up with a huge thank you to the Parent Council for making this possible.

Carol -First Aid

CS was recently on a first aid course to renew her certificate which is required every 3 years. In our weekly workshops the children have been learning about danger awareness. The instructors at the first aid training encouraged Carol to teach the children CPR so that they are able to tell an adult how to do it. This has been ongoing and the children are fully engaged.

Carol - Attendance

Attendance is on our improvement plan this year. This is monitored monthly for anyone whose attendance falls below 95%. Attendance monitoring is ongoing. The biggest issue we are finding with attendance is the school not being informed of absences which can result in the child receiving the wrong absence code. We are trying to encourage parents to report absences by calling, using Parents Portal or email to ensure our absence data is as accurate as possible.

AOB

Life-Vac

All staff will be trained in the use of the Life-vac device. Carol has already been trained. It was asked if the PC wish to be trained. If so, the training is available on the Life-Vac website. Masks need to be replaced once the device has been used and Spar will cover the cost of replacing this. During First Aid training the instructors were talking about using defibrillators in the community and it was discovered our nearest defibrillator is at Wardpark or Kildrum. There is a website which pinpoints your nearest defibrillator and whether it is open. It was suggested that all Abronhill schools could get together for a fundraiser to get one installed centrally for future.

Benches

Danielle Scott mentioned that her husband works in the prison service and they build benches etc so this may be useful.

Mobile Phone Policy

Fiona Kerr asked about the school mobile phone policy in relation to the updated government policy. Laura informed the meeting that we had not received any update from the Council and our policy remains the same. Staff do not use personal devices for anything to do with the children and their phones are away during the school day. Children's phones should be switched off once they are through the school gates and they are locked away in a box in the classroom during the day and collected at 3 o'clock. Laura said she would look out for any updates from the Council.

Uniform Policy

It was asked if the school uniform policy had been changed with regards to the advice from the government. Laura stated our uniform policy remains the same. Our uniform consists of black trousers/skirt, white shirt and royal blue jumper/cardigan. These do not have to have the school logo on them.

It was decided that it would be good to send out the mobile phone and uniform policy to parents as a reminder and add this to our newsletters.

Parking

Parking outside the school was discussed. We send out a reminder regularly in our newsletters for parents and recently have been advised by the police to inform parents if they see cars parked illegally, they should take a note of the registration and report it to the police. After five reports of the same vehicle the police will visit the owner.

Future Meetings

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

15th May – in person