

Whitelees Primary School and Nursery Class

Parent Council Meeting - Minutes

Thursday 14th May – 18.00



IN ATTENDANCE:

Emily Sands, Dawn Macpherson, Elaine Stewart, Susan Graham, Aileen Lewis, Deborah Brass, Kirsty Bowman, Kirsty Mackenzie, Lynsey Wright, Sandi Rankin and Alix Menzies

WPS & NC- Laura Murdoch, Carol Stewart, Gioia McAuley and Amanda Ronald

Apologies: Danielle Scott, Katie McGarvie and Adam Smith (Councillor)

Minutes agreed by: Deborah Brass

Minutes seconded by: Susan Graham

The meeting was held in school and hosted by Emily Sands. The meeting was started with a warm welcome to everyone and a thank you to everyone for attending.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Hi all, welcome to the last scheduled Parent Council meeting of 2025/2026. Thank you for attending tonight's meeting, we have apologies from Danielle and Katie.

We've had a quieter few months since our last meeting in January, with the Spring Disco in March being our main focus. This was a great success, was well attended and thanks to fantastic teamwork went very smoothly, with special thanks to Miss McKenzie for DJ-ing the first disco, and Mrs Roberston and Deborah stepping in to run the entertainment at the second disco.

We would like to congratulate the school staff on a wonderful inspection outcome; we do not underestimate the work that went into this and the effort that all staff put into making Whitelees a wonderful school all year round. The results reflect what a great environment Whitelees is, and we know the children cannot wait to celebrate next week.

Following previous discussions and a request from the children via the Pupil Parliament, we bought and delivered playdough sets for the school. We have further funds set aside to spend on the children's wish lists, potentially for some outdoor games. We also have plans to purchase a gift for the school's 50th Anniversary later this year.

Our final events this school year will be supporting the school at the school shows and sports day at the beginning of June.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Whitelees PS Parent Council Treasurer Report May 2026

Starting Balance - **£7413.51**

In	Out
£648.77 (Disco Profit)	£30 (Santa Gift)
	£100 (Glee Contribution)
	£145.07 (P7 leaves Hoodie)
	£170 (playdoh & nursey contribution)
	£78 (Xmas stock)
	£188.65 (Disco stock)

Total in bank to date: **£7664.92**

Commitments agreed to already

Games (outdoor area) – Ideas to be emailed to HT

School trips – £600

Ice cream van – £300 approx.

P1 gift – £182.39

Inflatables HMIE Fun Day - £500

Spring Disco

This was very popular across the full school – events were ticketed at £3 and we also raised funds from the ever popular pocket money stall. This was an inclusive event and, as always, the GIFT fund was used when needed.

Profit over all: **£648.77**

The PC will hold their usual refreshment stalls for the show and sports day and organise the ice cream van for Sports Day – Emily will contact George (van) and arrange from him to visit the school 10.45am – 12.30pm.

HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

HMIE

Laura Murdoch shared her delight on our very positive HMIE report for both the school and nursery. We were commended on our amazing team, strong sense of identity and belonging, our high expectations and aspirations and our highly motivated children. The Inspectors also praised our P1 early level play, outdoor learning and digital technology.

The nursery was commended on their relationships between staff and children, how well the staff know their children and families, their warm environment and outstanding health and wellbeing. Consultation will be put out to parents on what should be in improvement plan

SIP Priority 1

On our School Improvement Plan for 2025-2026 were:

Learning Teaching and Assessment – HMIE Inspectors highly commended us for our high-quality learning teaching and assessment using targeted interventions for children which have been very effective.

Vision, Values and Aims – Our three-year journey co-creating our Visions, Values and Aims with staff and pupils is now well embedded in the school and will feature in our 50th Anniversary Summer show.

Pupil voice – We have established our Pupil Parliament who love to represent their class and our P6 pupils are participating in the Young Leaders of Learning programme with Cumbernauld Primary School.

Attendance – Our attendance continues to be above the national average for North Lanarkshire Council, and we continue with our rigorous attendance procedures.

SIP Priority 2

Meta Skills – we have had a focus on one Meta Skill each week and children have been awarded certificates for the focus skill. Next year will be different in that the Class Teacher will choose a pupil for one of the meta skills each week.

Outdoor learning – Sessions have been completed with Love Outdoors and we have purchased some new outdoor resources from our STEM grant which will be used by our Outdoor after school club.

SIP 2026-2027

We will continue to embed raising attainment in reading and writing. Staff have been attending twilight training sessions on the new NLC framework for reading to writing. These will be piloted in 1 or 2 classes next year then rolled out to the rest of the school from P3 -7.

Assessment – There will be more opportunities for assessment.

Curriculum refresh – Our working party will look at planning and incorporate children's rights, our motto (explore discover and understand) and continue to embed more next year.

Health and Wellbeing - We will use the Think Equal resource next year, including weekly book reading to children. This will run for 22 weeks and is a mandatory Scottish Education resource.

Nursery – We will look at points of transition ensuring children are supported. We are also looking to increase our community involvement.

PEF

Our PEF allocation for next year is £44100 and, as in previous years, will be used for staffing, allowing us to keep Miss Louise MacKenzie who contributes greatly to our school providing literacy interventions with children, writing and overseeing our amazing school shows, organising our after-school clubs and sports competitions amongst many other responsibilities.

Countdown to Summer

Laura ran through the parental Countdown to Summer which will be sent out to parents by email on Friday 15th May.

Summer Trips

The PC were asked if anyone was available to help with the summer trips this year as helpers must have a PVG. Susan and Lynsey volunteered to attend both the P1 – P4 and P4/5 – P7 trip.

50th Birthday Celebrations

This will be incorporated into our Summer show this year although our 50th Birthday is not until August. Planning is well underway for our celebrations which the children have been involved in.

Summer Show

Laura acknowledged that, due to clubs and previous commitments, increasing numbers of children are unable to return for the evening performance of the show, this year being no exception. This puts pressure on children who are able to attend and may have to take on an extra role at short notice.

Over the last few years our afternoon performance has been better attended than the evening performance which was not always the case. For this reason, we will look at possibly changing the format of our shows. This will be put out to consultation.

AOB

School Garden

Dawn and Kirsty are keen to help tidy up our school garden and this was welcomed by Laura.

E-scooters

Lynsey raised concerns about e-scooters being rode in the school playground by parents and children without safety equipment. This had already been noted and reminders sent out by email regarding this. It was suggested that the children make posters about this and these will be posted at the school doors as a reminder.