

# **Braco Parent Council meeting**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Attendees:** Jill Johnston (Treasurer), Julie Reid (Secretary), Craig Torrens, Amelia Conway, Becca Macrae, Alison McIntosh, Dee Campbell, Teagan McAvoy,, Rachel Gus, Jean Jocelyn (via teams)

JR opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

## **Headteacher's Report**

### **Update**

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to the children, families and wider community for their kind wishes upon my appointment as permanent Headteacher of Braco Primary. I'm really excited about continuing to build upon all of the things that make our school so special. Working closely with learners, staff and families for several years has also given me valuable insights into our areas for improvement.

I cannot believe that we are entering the final term of what has been another busy, exciting and rewarding school year. As always, we have lots of fun learning opportunities planned for our summer term, and if the staff felt last term was busy, they've got another thing coming!

### **Staffing updates**

Firstly, I'd like to thank parents and carers for their understanding regarding the changes to staffing at Braco Primary School this year. Throughout this year, the school has really strived to ensure as much continuity as possible for our learner. I appreciate that at times parents must have had some concerns, so I would like to thank you all for trusting in the school and bearing with us.

The permanent Principal Teacher post closed last night at midnight and we have had a considerable number of applications. After careful consideration, Miss Conway has decided that it is not the right time for her to apply for the substantive post. While this may be disappointing to many because Miss Conway has been a great support to our school this year, I am confident that we will appoint a practitioner with a fantastic skill set, who will be able to bring new skills and talents to our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Conway for all her hard work over this past year.

At present, it is likely that we will be getting a Probationer Teacher in August, although this has yet to be confirmed.

### **After School Clubs**

Following previous discussions regarding after-school clubs, this year we have endeavoured to spread them more evenly throughout the school year. Across this academic year, we have offered the following:

Term 1: Bowls and Gardening Clubs.

Term 2: Gardening Club and Art Clubs.

Term 3: Multi-Sport, and parents offered a Board Game/ Craft Club.

Term 4: Bowls Club, Cricket Club, Gardening Club and Makaton.

We realise that after school care can be a challenge in Braco and would like to continue building upon our offer of after school clubs next session. If any parents wish to be involved with the organising or leading of clubs then please contact the school.

## ADT

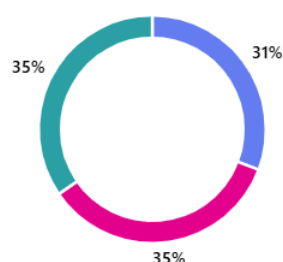
Thank you to the Ardoch Development Trust for their continued support of the school this year. This year they have continued to support our school by contributing to violin lessons and the Primary 7 transition trip.

### School uniform 2025-26

As you may remember, during Parent Contact in March, we gathered parents' views on a wide range of areas regarding school life. One question concerned school uniform and whether parents would support us to implement a slightly stricter approach to uniforms, particularly indoor shoes. The results of this can be found below:

10. In the 2025/26 school year, I would support a (slightly) stricter approach to school uniform. Proposed changes would include the school asking that children not wear heavily branded or non-navy hoodies/jumpers and have separate indoor shoes. [More details](#)

Strongly Agree	8
Agree	9
Neutral	9
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0



Therefore, in August, we will be looking to implement a slightly stricter approach to uniforms. Key changes will include: 1) The ask that children wear indoor shoes. Braco PS is very outdoor orientated, but this means that children are often coming back from lunch with shoes covered in mud. Despite our best efforts, this can lead to carpets and soft furnishing being stained, which makes the school cleaner's job considerably more challenging. To support this, I will buy multiple pairs of inexpensive plimsols in a range of sizes for children to wear, if needed. 2) That children wear navy jumpers/ hoodies, which are not heavily branded. This year, staff have noticed an increase in hoodies which are not in line with policy. Particularly with our older children, there has been some discussions around brands etc. which we would like to avoid. Therefore, we have lots of pre-loved jumpers that will be offered to children where required.

### Perth and Kinross Council Mobile Phone Policy

You may have seen in the news that Perth and Kinross Council have renewed their Mobile Phone policy, which now indicates that mobile phones are turned off when children and young people are in school. The entire policy can be found online, but it also outlines an expectation that schools will develop and create their own policies regarding mobile devices. Key aims for the renewed policy include to:

- Ensure classrooms are calm and focused on learning
- Ensure children and young people are educated to use mobile technology legally and safely
- Are supportive of each school's ethos and built around each school's agreed values recognising individual school context
- Are fully consulted upon with all stakeholders
- Link clearly to existing PKC policies around positive relationships and digital technologies
- Promote positive relationships

Braco PS will develop our own policy in due course, but at present we are not having a significant issue with mobile phones. Children are very responsible in handing these to adults, if they have brought them to school.

### **Class Structures for next year**

This week our number of primary one children were confirmed and this means that it is unlikely that any year groups will need to be split next year. Final confirmation of classes will happen the week commencing Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, when hopefully we will have information to share regarding our new Principal Teacher and Probationer Teacher.

#### **Update post 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Class Structures:**

**Primary 1/2/3:** Miss Conway (Mon-Fri)

**Primary 4/5:** Miss Wilson (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri), Miss Sheach (Thurs).

**Primary 6/7:** Miss Fraser (Mon-Thurs), Miss Sheach (Thurs)

**RCCT:** Mr Torrens (2 hours 30 mins in P1/2/3, 2 hours in Primary 6/7) **Days for RCCT:** TBC

Miss Wilson is the new Principal Teacher

Miss Fraser is the new Probationary Teacher

### **School/ Parent Communication Channels**

This year we have tried to use more reliable communication channels to share important messages with parents. At present, these are largely emails and Learning Journals.

Moving forward my aim is to move to Groupcall for email and text messages and Learning Journals for class news. During the first Parent Council of the 2025/26 session, I will share an overview to parents which outlines exactly what type of messages will be sent using each communication method.

Perth and Kinross Council have obtained an account with Safer Schools and there will be an expectation for schools to encourage parents to use this platform next year. There is also a communication function within the app, which will send 'push' notifications to parents when the school shares information. I **DO NOT** want to invest time and energy across our school community for a resource that does not live up to our requirements. Therefore, I am wondering if there are any interested parties who would be interested in joining a 'pilot' trial, with the opportunity of feeding back about how useful they found the app. We will aim to begin this trial in August 2025.

### **Additional Support Need portal**

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (**CAMHS**) NHS Scotland is the national service specification outlining provisions young people and their families can expect from the NHS. CAMHS have recently launched a new portal. There is a waiting list of 5 years on the NHS for diagnosis, so this portal may be a very useful tool. Mr Torrens will send a link out to parents in the near future. It was mentioned that it is very easy to use.

### **Pre-Loved school uniforms**

There is a large amount of pre-loved uniforms that the school doesn't really have room to store so we will put a stall out in the coming weeks to try and distribute as much as possible.

**Action taken:** We had a stall in the playground for 3 afternoons and a fair amount was taken. It may be an idea to put a stall out once a term going forward so we don't get a big build up again.

## **Financials/Fundraising**

Break the rules day was held in April and £134.30 was raised.

STEM £1600 spent, £471 left

There will be an end of year funday with a whole School Trip to Auchingarrich Wildlife Park on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Torrens asked if Parent Council would be willing to fund the cost of the bus, which was agreed to. The cost for the day is £480. The expensive cost of transport has raised the question again would it make sense for someone to complete MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) training as looking forward next year there will be 10 P6s who will need transport for their transition days.

## **Fundraising Ideas**

The Santa dash was missed this year so it was agreed that it should be brought back for 2025!

**Action taken:** The hall has been booked for the Santa Dash/Christmas fair on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December to coincide with the lighting of the Braco Christmas tree. JR to make the council aware in the coming weeks.

Aug -Oct – Bingo or Beetle drive?

Before anything is arranged, we must link in with the WI because they are been holding Bingo nights to raise funds.

For those that don't know (JR ror one!) Beetle drive is a simple and popular dice game where players compete to be the first to draw a complete beetle on a sheet, with each body part determined by the dice roll.

A Ceilidh to coincide with the children's learning about burns night in January perhaps? Burns Night 2026 falls on Sunday 25th January. An entry fee could be charged per family.

Should we think about raffles or hampers again?

## **Zebra crossing outside of the school**

It has been mentioned to Mr Torrens that there may be a legal principle that SSEN needs to look at the infrastructure of the road upgrading. Would a puffin crossing outside of the school come under this?

On another note, the parking safety signs (provided by the ADT) seem to be helping to give clearer access to the school gate on Church Street, which is great news.

Also the school has been advised that there will be more activity from the timber lorries until September.

## **AOB**

It was asked if the Braco school mobile phone policy will include smart watches?