

Parent Council Meeting 17th September 2024

Apologies - Nicole, Sara, Chris, Liberty, Hamish, Anna, Heidi, Vicky R, Kirsty, Luc, Sam, Sheena, Trisha, Kevin, Rachel, Claire,

Attended - Marion, Robin, Kirsty, Carol P, Vicky, Laura, Laura R, Gregor R, Phoebe, Dawn, Mrs Allen, Mrs Gibson, Mrs Griffiths

Sheona Allen, Headteacher Update

- **Quality Improvement Plan**

Talk4writing - teaching framework which has 5 steps

1. Start with cold task (without support)
2. Reviewed by teachers
3. Model - picture format (like learning shorthand) - Story maps based on repetition, pupils can visualise the text through pictures
4. Planning stage -focus on setting/ character, subheadings and paragraphs
5. Hot task (to see progression)

Nurture - looking to be accredited for being nurturing school

Looks at children's perceptions of themselves

Based on 6 points - re-evaluation by teachers

1 Children's learning understood through development

2 Classroom offers a safe base

3 Importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing

4 Language is a vital means of communication

5 All behavior is communication

6 Importance of transition in children's lives

Just2Easy - new platform with multiple programmes and parents can see progress (like seesaw). Teachers will be trialing each programme - once established, will share with parents

- **Pupil Equity Fund**

Funding used to close the gap -

Bigmaths (online subscription) targeted for each child

Nessy - online spelling programme - custom for children who have difficulty with writing/reading

Talk4writing - training for teachers (website available for more info)

Introduced jotters for writing (lined paper), kids are enjoying using these.

- **Children's school charter**

Based on UNCRC rights of a child - 42 rights, the children have chosen 5 which were directed to parents to discuss (Sheona's email on the 18th September)

- 1) Right to relax and play
- 2) Right to education
- 3) Right to be listened to and taken seriously
- 4) Right to help if they have been hurt/ neglected
- 5) Right to be protected

Parent Council 2024 - Introductions and Agenda

Chair - Marion

Vice chair - Grace

Clerk 1 - Carol D

Clerk 2 - Smita

Treasurer - Matthew will transfer to Laura E (first) & Gregor (second)

There is no separate fund-raising committee (as parents, we are all responsible for fund raising)

Constitution - Review done by Anna B (September 2024), this will be shared with parents once finalised.

Current Parent Council Budget - **£6423.61** (2/10/24)

Expected Spend for 2024/25

Crannog Visit (£500 transport, £350 admission)

Day of Dance (£500)

Cross Country (£250)

Science Centre (£600 transport plus £350 admission)

Highland Games (£400)

Total - £2950 (£1600 not spent from last year)

School requesting £1500 to cover balance but would be good to have extra for some contingency

School has some Basil Death funds left to pay for admissions

Outdoor activities -

P3 Bus trip to Aberfeldy

P5 Kayaking £500

P6 - normally have a ski trip (no P6s this yr)

P7 Comrie Croft (no cost to the school)

Over and above resources -

Specialist materials for clay work -

Fyndynate - RHET day - rural life - farming, game keeping, forestry, moorlands, cooking - stations for kids, driven round in military truck, sheep, pigs, thermal imaging, heather burning - aimed at P5, annual trip

Summer festival (showcase) - 'specialists' from ?Adventure circus (Ross contact)

Bulbs - focus on gardening - planting pots, 'bulb lasagne', wellies, alpine pots, soil approx £100

Fundraising for the year

Basil Death - ?1st March, applications from school or parent council

Fundraising - Thrift shop (requested for 2025, not date yet), **Pub quiz** - Thursday 27th March Craggs

Amazon wish list ? Idea for school to start a Wishlist for parents to keep an eye on. However school is already requesting materials etc for PC to fund.

Tuck - Parent council pay for children's tuck toast and fruit - ?100 month

Lots of waste in the past when lots of options previously available for tuck especially in younger classes, most children happy with it. Jam/ honey/ marmalade - local donations to reduce costs?

Breaktime - main concern as Lauras hours have been reduced, she is not present on a Thursday or Friday to support at breaktimes. 5 hrs of Jades time is allocated to covering break time. Sheona is still in conversation with PKC re: funding for additional hours for Laura. Currently meet criteria in terms of staff to children ratio

Uniform - Constant struggle as kids are losing jumpers and fleeces, the school has a 'Relaxed uniform' - but it is felt that wearing a school jumper/fleece is expected and attempting to not lose these is promoting a good 'lifeskill'.

Yurt - Cannot be insured through the council. Discussion whether this is worth insuring, Red Kite to visit school, annual check on Yurt

Nits - Continuing outbreak, teachers are unable to send pupils home for treatment. Parents are encouraged to do regular checks and treatment.

Proposed PC Meetings for the year (each term) -

11th November 7pm online

11th March after school, in person

12th May 2025 7pm online

Curling and swimming is a one off experience - Next year, senior class will get swimming. (The school went curling 2 years ago).

Sean Quinn - thank you card from kids have been sent for their new playground additions.