

11 November 2024

Apologies: Trisha, Carol P, Grace, Laura, Marie, Kirsty, Liberty, Hamish, Laura Eason, Sara de Comyn, Heidi, Smita, Rachel, Sheena

Attendees: Chris Hughes, Ewa, Chris R, Laura R, Gregor R, Jade, Marion, Carol, Nicole, Ritchie, Robin, Sam, Vicky P, Anna B, Pheobe Prendergast.

AGENDA:

- Headteacher Update
- School Strikes & Update on potential future strikes
- Just2easy & P4 to P7 homework
- Fundraising
- Treasurer update
- AOB

HEAD TEACHER UPDATE/OVERVIEW

SHEONA ALLEN

Teachers and staff have enjoyed welcoming the children back after the 2 weeks of school strikes.

- School improvement plan – The school are already seeing positive impacts of talk for writing. The children are engaging well with this new way of teaching writing.
- Yule showcase prep is underway. Brilliant and successful visit to the Crannog last week. Highlighted the importance of these trips for enhancing learning in the class. Kids have demonstrated their learning back at school and will continue to apply this to their showcase.
- Areas of further nurture focus will be discussed at teachers in service day on 15th November and reported back at next meeting.
- Set up of Just2easy is almost complete. Rollout delayed by strikes.

Other –

- Mrs Allen requested all children have the right shoes for indoor P.E (Grandtully village hall). Concerns about more serious ankle injuries, especially for the older children. Crocs and slippers do not give the right amount of foot/ankle support needed. Please can all parents make sure to update shoes for PE where necessary.
- Showcase - Volunteers needed to safeguard fires and certain areas. **ACTION - If parents are able to help, please let the teachers know.**

Request from school to the PC –

SHED - A few yrs. ago the PC funded a new shed for school resources, but it needs shelving to make access to these resources easier. **ACTION – The PC will complete on this. Jade to send measurements and info to Matthew who will order materials.**

BIRD HIDE – the bird hide is falling apart, needs replaced. **ACTION - Parent Council has agreed to ask for parents help to rebuild/replace.**

TEACHER UPDATE

GILLIAN GRIFFITHS

Showcase update – 11TH DEC 2024 5PM TO 6PM.

This terms showcase is a Yule festival and will involve food and feasting.

- School is hoping that parents will be able to contribute some food.
- More information to follow by email. Songs, stories and further showcasing of the children's learning about the Iron age linked to their visit to the Crannog.

SCHOOL STRIKES:

Recent school strikes following the October half term holidays were called last minute.

- Schools are not made aware of Union discussions or negotiations in advance, so also only find out last minute at the same time as parents when it's reported through the media.
- Mrs A outlined that the reasons for striking are often sensitive but UNISON, who represent a variety of workers in the public sectors called the strike on behalf of the school support staff regarding pay.
- While as a small school, staff generally and naturally support each other and step in where required to keep the school days fluid. However, industrial action guidance states a crossover of roles is not allowed.
- Therefore, GPS's risk assessment showed that there would be no staff members available to supervise the children during break and lunch times.

UPDATE ON POTENTIAL OF FUTURE STRIKES:

- Currently no indications that another strike will happen, BUT no resolution was reached. UNISON may therefore call another strike, but this could impact a different public working sector.

STRUCTURE OF SCHOOLING/HOMESCHOOLING DURING ANY FURTHER/FUTURE STRIKES:

Parents suggested:

- Option 1 – Could a small group of children attend on different days for a few hours (out with the times when supervision may be required)
- Option 2 – More structured in-depth online learning groups

Discussion about above options being offered a few days a week i.e Mon and Tues be in person/ teacher contact time at school (for a few hrs and around supervision demands), Wed & Thursday - online learning? A general feeling that this would motivate kids more, and would go further in helping parents juggling work etc.

Having a more defined structure in place will also help during potential snow days.

JUST2EASY

This is very close to being rolled out. Delay due to school strikes. No date for roll out provided.

HOMEWORK FOR P4 TO P7:

Concerns raised about lack of homework for P4 to 7's and how they are expected to catch up following strikes. Could homework be more specific to each child and include positive/constructive feedback for the children. CR noted that homework would also prepare the children for moving up to high school as that jump has been difficult for 2 of his children.

Homework could be an opt in or out depending on child and parents, as some parents support the idea of homework, and some don't. School cannot enforce it.

FUNDRAISING:

- Pub Quiz - 30th January@ The Chraggs

Preparing and hosting the pub quiz takes a lot of time and energy. Historically the quiz has raised a lot of money for the PC, but for it to be successful a lot of support is needed in terms of volunteers and attendees.

ACTION - PC will shout out for parent help and see what the response is. If the quiz does not look like it has the necessary support, one option may be to move it to the Inn on the Tay and change the day and date. A different month and weekday (Friday night and not January) might work better. Gregor Ross volunteered to host.

ACTION - PC will apply to Basil D'eath – deadline 1st March 2025. Request and amount to be discussed with school.

TREASURER UPDATE:

Healthy bank balance - £6423.61p

- However approx. £3000 of this will go to the school to cover transport costs and admission tickets for school trips through the year. Some will be needed to make repairs to the yurt.

Although a healthy balance, a lot more is needed to float through the full academic year 24/25 and into 25/26.

AOB:

- Ms Forsyth replacement? – Mrs Edwards now covers Ms Forsyth's role.
- Curling couldn't happen last yr. – discussed at last pc meeting. Would be a one-off experience of over the senior years and not a yearly event.
- Parent suggestion re a possible future school trip - Highland folk museum?
- **NEXT PC DATE – 11 MARCH 2025 3.15PM**