



Head Teachers Parent Partnership Report 09.09.2025

Mrs Jacqueline McPherson

Good evening, everyone, and thank you for joining us for tonight's Parent Council meeting. It's always a pleasure to come together as a community dedicated to the success and well-being of our children and young people.

I would like to begin by welcoming our new families to St. Fillan's. The Parent Council is a fantastic way to connect with others and to become more involved in our school community. During these meetings, I will provide a comprehensive Head Teacher's report, along with updates and a "wish list" for consideration. I would like to remind families that matters relating to individual children or classroom concerns should not be raised at Parent Council. These should instead be directed to the school office, where we can ensure your enquiry reaches the appropriate member of staff.

School Improvement and Self-Evaluation (HGIOS 4: *Leadership of Change / Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion*)

Our **Standards and Qualities Report** and **School Improvement Plan** have been signed off by our Education Manager and shared with our school community. I am delighted with the many achievements from last session, and we are committed to building on these successes in the year ahead.

As part of our Improvement Plan, we will be working in close collaboration with our own cluster schools and with the Trinity Cluster. This moderation work will focus on **QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment** (themes 3 and 4). We will report on this during our **Quality Indicator Visit** with our Education Manager and the Head Teacher of St. Fergus on **1st October**.

School Ethos and Life of the School (HGIOS 4: *Leadership of Learning / Ensuring Wellbeing*)

Our Shared Vision

"We are all learning, growing and succeeding together"

Our Shared Aim - BUDS

Be Brave

Unleash Creativity

Demonstrate Excellence

Show/Radiate Enthusiasm



The school year has started in a very settled way. The new school uniform looks outstanding, and I want to sincerely thank families for their support in ensuring a smooth roll-out.

Our new **PE tracksuits** have already had a positive impact. They reduce the time it takes for children to get changed, which means more curriculum time is available for learning and teaching.

We are also continuing to strengthen our **close links with St. Benedict's High School**. This partnership, supported by Miss McGarry, includes our choir taking part in shared events such as the upcoming Cluster Mass. These opportunities are helping to enrich children's experiences and ease their transition into secondary school.

Meeting Learners' Needs (HGIOS 4: *Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion*)

Our new **disabled toilet** is now complete, and we are awaiting the delivery of a medical bed. This will ensure we continue to meet the needs of all our children and young people.

Three new sinks have been installed in the infant classrooms, allowing children to wash their hands with both hot and cold water. This has made a noticeable difference. Only one Belfast sink remains, in P6/5, and we hope to replace this in the new financial year.

School Environment and Resources (HGIOS 4: *Management of Resources to Promote Equity*)

- Our **budget remains very tight**, and I would like to thank families who have supported us by ensuring their children are well-equipped with stationery.
- Significant works are planned for the **October holiday**:
 - Trees in the playground will be trimmed back or removed, improving both safety and play space.
 - Fire doors are due to be installed; this remains with the council at present, as they are working to secure installation dates.

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A recent **Health and Safety walk-round** with our Business Support Officer confirmed that the school fabric remains in good condition. The investment in works last session and those now planned will help ensure our building remains fit for purpose

Wish List for This Session

Last session, we discussed the importance of improving our **outdoor learning environment**.

This year, we would be grateful if any fundraising efforts could be **ring-fenced for outdoor equipment**. I have sourced some companies that supply natural play equipment, such as mud kitchens, to give an idea of what we would like to develop in the back area of our playground, which currently goes relatively unused.

- Link for reference: [Handmade Places – Natural Play Equipment](#)

There may be other companies that are a little cheaper, but this link provides a clear idea of the types of outdoor learning resources we would like to invest in for our children.

Looking Ahead

I am proud of the progress we have made and grateful for the strong partnership with our families and Parent Council. Together, we will continue to strengthen our school, ensuring that every child thrives both in their learning and in their wider development

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