



St Fillan's Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 9th September 2025

Present:

Mrs McPherson (JMc)
Mrs McWilliams
Heather M
Heather H
Michelle B
Diane J
Mel Y
Karen K
Maureen McG
Anne McE
Vivienne D
Margaret E
Louise S

2. Apologies

None noted

3. Actions Arising from Previous Meeting

Meeting minutes from 29th April 2025 reviewed and agreed

4. Head Teacher Report (JM)

Mrs McPherson welcomed all parents to new academic session and reflected on the positive start to the new school year. She praised families for embracing the new school uniform and reflected on good engagement with this throughout the school. The school roll is now up to 109 pupils for this session.

Full detail on Headteacher's report is available on the school website; parents encouraged to access this through new website and make use of all the available resources through this.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/public/stfillansprimary/uploads/sites/3043/2025/09/09151354/HT-REPORT-1-PARENT-COUNCIL-Session-2025-2026.pdf>

5. Treasurer Report (VD)

Opening balance for 25/26 session: £3037



In the summer term 24/25, the parent council raised £1643 from the summer fayre. Expenditure for Summer term 24/25 totalling £5091 (Sports day Ice Cream van £144, Connect insurance £137, p7 leavers £350 and laptops £4460).

Wider discussion around regular sources of generating funds through 50 club, ragbag collection, and easyfundraising websites. MB noting that it would be helpful to remind parents of these initiatives and encourage signing up for them.

JMc noted that school requests for grants and funding applications have largely not been successful due to SIMD demographic in locality.

Action: parents to be reminded of fundraising through ragbag/easyfundraising/50 club.

6. Planned Events and Activities

With new PVG legislation; all those who help with parent council events require to be registered on the scheme. Discussion around ensuring parent council are complying with the guidelines before any pupil events can be planned. Therefore Halloween/Christmas Discos on hold.

Parent/Carer events out with the school can go ahead as not subject to these restrictions. Provisional plans for, quiz night (early November) Wine/gin tasting (End of January) and Race night (spring term). Timing to avoid clashes with church fundraising and social events.

JMc encouraged the parent council to link with senior St Benedict's pupils who may be able to support with pupil events (face painting / fruit machine etc).

Action: Potential venues were discussed and PC members to liaise with owners to confirm possible lets for parent/carers events.

7. Next Meeting

Planning meeting for events arranged for Wednesday 1st October

8. AOB

Use of social media channels

JMc explained school now using bluesky instead of twitter for communication. JMc reflected that each class whatsapp groups work well for communication. JMc thanked parents for being patient with recent date changes for events that have occurred in the early weeks of this session. Parents encouraged to refer to newsletter and school website for important dates. Dates for holy sacraments have yet to be finalised.



MB highlighted there are two facebook groups which can be confusing for parents. This was noted to be a legacy from before Seesaw was in use.

Action: to archive/deactivate one of the accounts with notifying those on the group 2 weeks in advance, then keep PC one only.

Non-uniform days

KK raised concern for the significant impact consecutive weekly non-uniform days and changes to the school week can have on neurodiverse children. Request for alternatives to be considered and reviewed. Broader discussion around alternative timing of these (monthly rather than weekly/ consecutive days) as well as alternative means (crazy hair/pyjamas) to be considered.

Actions: Potential for polls for both pupils and parents to gain insight to preferences of these to be considered. School to discuss theme of managing change as part of school assembly health and wellbeing time to aid modelling and support around this topic more broadly.

Tracksuit Availability

KK highlighted that at present there is only one supplier (schoolwear made easy) for school tracksuits. MY noted that Baru had stated that they were reviewing suppliers but had planned to introduce this as an option in their schoolwear range.

Homework

MMc highlighted concern from P3 parents around the medium homework was being assigned. Parental preference was described to be for hard copy rather than digital submissions to support pupil fine motor writing skills. JMc reflected on council green print strategy which directs to avoid excessive printing, which is one of the reasons why homework diaries are no longer used. However JMc also noted that there is an emphasis within the school to have evidence of academic development which includes homework and jotters will be provided for this purpose.

MY highlighted that reading eggs platform is not accessible from all devices, and on some this leads to difficulty accessing the reading books due to small print size. Broader discussion between parents noted that the platform does work on alternative devices such as apple ipads/ laptops but this is not accessible for all.

Action: parents encouraged by JMc to speak with class teachers about any issues that arise around homework accessibility and assignments.



Girls Toilets

AMcE highlighted problems within girls toilets, toilet roll dispensers are often blocked/jammed. Action: JMc to raise with John to report through facilities on this issue.

P7 residential trip

HM asked if pupils being taken to location of watersports trip directly on the first day would alleviate some of the anticipated additional costs associated with this. JMc stated that the cost has now been provided, which would total £51 for each child in addition to the current cost plan. This includes transport to and from the Castle Semple site. This will be formally communicated with families for those going on the trip.