



ST JAMES' PARENT GROUP MEETING

Monday 16th March 2026 at 18:00

AGENDA

Committee Members: Christina Waltham, Marie Prior, Claire Ferguson, LeeAnn Nelson, Sari Cabrera Valdivia and Luisa Kemp

Chair – Claire McLaughlin and Michelle Martinson

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Claire McLaughlin welcomed everyone to the meeting including Head Teacher - Mr Healy, Deputies - Mrs Gillies and Mrs Bradford, Principal teacher Mrs Hogan and Father John.

Please note that 8 parents from the wider school group were present.

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 12th January 2026

Minutes were issued from the previous meeting, issued to full school forum 9th Feb 2026, these were accepted with no revisions.

4. Parent Forum Feedback

No feedback received since last meeting. The parent group regularly asks for any feedback from the parents. It is also mentioned on the school's newsletter but no communication has been received.

5. Treasurer / Finance Update - Marie Prior

Marie reported that the current balance stands at just over £6,000. However, approximately £5,300 is already committed to upcoming expenses, including the garden project, the spring disco, and P7 leavers' events.

Recent expenditure has included Christmas party snacks and treats, books, Easter gifts, a contribution towards P7 leavers' gifts, as well as licences.

It was noted that funds will be significantly depleted in the near future. The group discussed the need to explore additional fundraising opportunities to maintain financial stability.

6. Pupil Group - Eco Committee

2 pupils from the eco committee presented an update on their work. They explained that the group focuses on looking after the school, the local community, and the planet. Their work includes promoting sustainable energy, managing waste responsibly, protecting the environment, encouraging recycling, and ensuring the school stays green.



They also spoke about the Laudato Si Committee, which means 'Praise Be to You' emphasises the importance of caring for the Earth as our common home, showing love for God's creation, and responding to the challenges of climate change. This year's action plan has focused on tackling litter and waste, with a strong emphasis on reducing, reusing, and recycling. The committee has also highlighted the importance of biodiversity, aiming to support a wide variety of living things while making the school a safe and enjoyable environment and reducing its carbon footprint.

The committee reported several successes over the year. These included running a Christmas jumper stall at the Christmas fayre, conducting playground surveys to identify areas with the most litter, talking about pollution and environmental dangers at assembly, and organising a community litter pick in the local park. In addition, the whole school has been learning the Laudato Si' hymn.

Ongoing actions include gardening and wildlife initiatives, such as preparing planters for spring and installing bird feeders. Looking ahead, the committee plans to introduce a Laudato Si' prayer for the whole school and to organise a Green Week.

7. Fundraising - Renfrewshire Partnership Ideas 2026 / Tesco Grant Update / B & Q Partnership

Renfrewshire Partnership Ideas 2026

The money from Renfrewshire Partnership 2025 has been used for playground lining, and photos are still required for reporting purposes. For 2026, an application has been submitted for an outdoor learning project with a funding request of £5,000. The proposal includes storage for materials, seating, and chalkboards. The application deadline is approaching, and no feedback has been received yet.

Tesco Grant Update

Last year's Tesco grant application was successful, with £1,500 awarded. Around £800 has already been spent, and a decision is needed on how to use the remaining balance. Once all funds have been used, a final report along with photos will need to be submitted to confirm completion of the project. In the recent blue token scheme, which offered £1,500, £1,000, and £500 awards, the school placed third. Any further project ideas can be considered for future Tesco grant applications.

B&Q Partnership

We are looking for ideas for potential improvements or projects, which can then be discussed with B&Q. Possible uses include materials for a Christmas grotto or support for storage solutions, which could also link to the outdoor learning project.

It was suggested that some of the fundraising could possibly be used for the P6 Disney Show. This could include funding for items such as paint and fabric. It is likely too late to organise this for the current year, so it may be more suitable for next year. Potentially using the B&Q Partnership for some help with storage was also discussed.

8. Valentines Disco - Thank you and feedback

The Valentine's Disco was well attended and raised approximately £800 to £900. The children enjoyed the event, behaviour was good, and the parent helpers were excellent. Thanks were expressed to all who supported the disco.



There were some difficulties at the end of the second disco for P4–P7 when organising children into groups for collection. It was suggested that a reminder be given to pupils in advance, possibly during an assembly.

It was also noted that there were just enough helpers for the second disco, highlighting an ongoing challenge in recruiting volunteers. Continued encouragement for parent helpers will be needed.

9. P7 Leavers - Hoodies & events

It was mentioned that hoodies will be handed out on 27th April during a small assembly. The leavers event is scheduled for Friday 5th June. Transport has been arranged, with buses booked. Children have indicated that they would like to be grouped with their friends; however, this may be difficult to manage fully and will require further discussion to finalise bus allocations.

Decorations have been ordered. Donations of prom dresses have already been received, and it was agreed that a further request for donations could be made, including a plea to Trinity. It was also confirmed that there is no strict dress code, and children can wear whatever they feel comfortable in, whether that is formal attire or casual clothing such as jeans.

ParentPay is now live for the event. Fiona will need to check permissions to ensure all necessary consents are in place. A DJ has been secured, and the venue will be St James. Father John asked for a copy of the parent group's safeguarding policy and it was also discussed to pass on a copy of the risk assessment for the night of the event.

Additional arrangements include organising a tuck shop and confirming food provision for the event. Helpers will also be needed, and a request for volunteers will be sent out.

10. AGM Preparation

It was noted that a few of the office bearers will be leaving at the end of the school year and the parent group will be looking for new people to join.

We would like the AGM to be more of a celebration event, which will include a presentation. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have more parents in attendance, and ideas are to be explored on how to encourage greater participation.

As with last year, information will be sent out in advance to ensure parents are aware of the event details. P1 parents will also be invited.

The plan is for the event to include contributions from pupils, possibly including the talent show winners and the choir. There was also a suggestion to include a short performance from the Disney show, potentially featuring a couple of songs.

It was also suggested whether some pupils could join the AGM and talk about what they enjoyed last year. It was also mentioned that this could potentially be done in a mini podcast.



11. Head teachers report - Mr Healy

Since our last update, it has been a privilege to witness the continued growth and achievements of our pupils. From creative arts to digital innovation, our school community remains a vibrant hub of activity.

Digital & Literary Connections

Our recent Community Digital Event was a resounding success, providing a fantastic platform for pupils to showcase their technological fluency and for families to engage with the digital tools shaping modern learning.

In addition to our digital journey, we have been working closely with the Scottish Book Trust. This partnership recently brought Nadine Aisha Jassat (an award-winning, Carnegie nominated author) to work with P4, P5, P6 and P7 and the next two weeks Gary Cudleigh (award-winning comic author, screenwriter, and creator) will work with our P2 and P3 pupils, sparking imaginations and bringing stories to life. This focus on literacy extended to our staff as well, with both teaching and support staff participating in specialised CLPL to further enhance how we support your children's reading and writing journeys.

World Book Day and Meta Skills Day

One of the highlights of the school year is World Book Day, and this year was no different! On Thursday 5th March, we hosted our annual Cosy Day.

Being fully mindful of the "Cost of the School Day", we ensured every child can participate comfortably. Pupils were invited to wear their school uniform paired with something they already have at home that makes them feel comfy—think fuzzy socks, a favourite sweater or hoodie, or even a teddy bear to cuddle during story time!

On Friday, we held our term 2 Meta Skills Day. It was a fun and engaging event where each year group explored a different decade from the past. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a variety of activities that helped them learn about the culture, music, fashion, and important events of their assigned decade. By working together, researching, and presenting their ideas, pupils developed important meta skills such as collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. It was a great opportunity for everyone to learn in a hands-on way while celebrating how life has changed over time.

Celebrating Excellence in the Arts

We are incredibly proud to announce that five of our pupils have been named winners in the Renfrewshire Inspired Art Exhibition. Two pupils were awarded with highly commended awards and have been invited to the grand opening of the event. This is a significant achievement, highlighting the exceptional creativity and talent we have within our classrooms.

Enhancing Our Learning Environment

Behind the scenes, our staff have been engaging in authority-wide moderation with St Anthony's Primary and St John Bosco. By working with colleagues from across Renfrewshire, our teachers are sharing best practices and ensuring that our assessment and moderation processes remain robust and effective.

Transformation is underway in our outdoor spaces. Based on consultations with our



Pupil Council and our Young Leaders of Learning, we have been working on ways to make playtimes more engaging. Thanks to the generous support of our Parent Council, we have added vibrant new playground markings to inspire imaginative games. We are also excited to announce that brand-new play equipment is due to arrive shortly, further enhancing the play experience for every child.

Cycle Access Fund

We successfully received just under £10k from Cycle Access Fund. Funding was received for groundwork in the playground and to purchase facilities to store bikes in the playground. This will improve access to equipment and allow our Bike Ability lessons to take place without disrupting P.E lessons in the hall.

We are still awaiting a date for the installation of a new bike shelter/scooter rack (located in the lower school playground) and a bike repair station (located in the upper school playground). We are awaiting an installation date from McGeady's.

Connections with Our Community

We have been working hard to improve our community partnerships, and our pupils have recently enjoyed some truly "pro" experiences.

We were thrilled to welcome visitors from both the men's and women's St Mirren squads, who even brought the League Cup along for the visit! Our pupils had the chance to ask questions about their famous cup victory and learn exactly what it

takes—in terms of dedication and teamwork—to be a professional footballer. A huge thank you to St Mirren FC for such an inspiring experience.

The sporting excitement continued with a visit from the Glasgow Clan ice hockey team, who led fantastic sessions with our P5 and P6 classes, encouraging active lifestyles and new skills.

Staffing Update

Mrs Pacitti, our Depute Head Teacher, will be retiring at the Easter holidays. Mrs Pacitti has been a much-valued member of our St James' Family and has given many years of dedicated service to the school community. During her time here, she has supported and cared for many children and families, always showing kindness, patience and a genuine commitment to ensuring the best for our pupils. She has played an important role in the life of the school and has been a trusted colleague and leader to staff. Mrs Pacitti will be greatly missed by pupils, families and colleagues alike. I am sure you will join us in thanking her for everything she has contributed to St James' and in wishing her a long, happy and very well-deserved retirement.

Mrs Pacitti will provide an in-depth handover to Mrs Bradford and I. We are currently awaiting further information from the Authority regarding future arrangements for the role, and we will share an update with parents once we have further clarity.

Reporting to Parents

Reports will be issued to parents on Wednesday 1st of April 2026.

12. Correspondence

No Correspondence was received.

It was mentioned that Michelle will attend the Trinity High estate meeting, where she will raise the group's many concerns regarding the location of the new Trinity High



School. Three potential options had been suggested. Concerns were raised about a potential joined campus with Renfrew High due to the location and amount of pupils. Regarding the two options in Erskine, significant concern was expressed about the proposal to transport approximately 800 children by bus, with the view that this number is too high and would create practical and logistical challenges. It was agreed that any bus arrangements would require a thorough review.

Traffic issues were also highlighted, particularly in relation to the Erskine area. The general feeling among the parent group is that none of these options are satisfactory.

Father John mentioned that Netherton Avenue near the airport has now been placed back on the agenda following an amendment at the previous Thursday's council meeting. The historical link with Renfrew has been emphasised. The voice and involvement of the wider parent forum group has been highlighted. It was noted that many members of the Trinity Parent Council are based in Bishopton and Erskine, and there is a need to ensure that the Renfrew parent voice is more strongly represented and heard in discussions.

The importance of ensuring that children are able to walk to school where possible was also highlighted, with this highlighted as a key consideration in ongoing planning.

13. AOCB

Father John enquired if someone from the Eco Committee would like to speak at Sunday mass during Green Week, school to confirm.

A query was raised regarding the forms completed for the School Improvement Plan, specifically whether the results—particularly those relating to parent group questions—can be shared with parents.

It was also highlighted that Kustom Kruizers has secured funding to provide bike servicing for both children's and adults' bikes, up to a value of £100. This will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and it was suggested that this information be shared with Bikeability parents.

An invitation to the AGM will be sent home alongside physical reports to ensure all parents are informed.

Finally, special recognition was given to Mrs Paciti for her exceptional hard work and dedication. She was praised for her strong relationships with the children, her supportive approach to families, and her warm manner. It was noted that she is held in very high regard by pupils, who affectionately refer to her as "a queen," and that she will be greatly missed.

14. Date of next meeting - AGM - 18th May 2026

Monday 18th May 2026, St James' Primary School, Renfrew, 6pm.

15. Closing Payer

The meeting concluded with a closing prayer. Thanks were extended to all attendees for their time and contributions.