# **WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE	ACTION BY	
6 September 2023		<u>Present</u>
		Linda Berry (Head Teacher), Laura Syme (Chairperson), Lorraine Poole (Vice-Chairperson), Lorraine Brown (Secretary), Yvonne McAlister (Vice-Secretary), Holly Hampsey (Vice-Treasurer), Claire McAlister, Karen Tweedy, JK, Cheryl Burke, Annette Graham, Andrea Kane, Jennifer McDonald, Claire Muir, Bami Gwogar, Gani Yat, Pamela Lingard, Miss Hammond.
		<u>Apologies</u>
		Pauline Brown (Treasurer), Karen Riley, Sam Burns
		Welcome and Introduction to the Code of Conduct
		Laura Syme welcome everyone present at the meeting and handed them all a copy of Woodlands Parent Council Code of Conduct. These have to be signed and handed in at the next meeting.
		Head Teacher's Report
		New Staff
		Linda Berry informed the parent council that newly appointed members of staff started this term They are Mrs Gibney (Deputy Head Teacher), Miss McGilvary and Mrs McInnes (short-term).
		School Fences
		Amey is aware that there are loose panels in the old fence and is looking into the long-term costs of maintaining it (because the parts are not routinely made anymore) or replacing it. A new fence is going up to close off the playground at the front. (prices being discussed by LA)
		Playground Equipment
		This is in the process of getting repaired but most repairs are not completed yet.
		School Calendar
		Calendars for the new school year may be distributed to the children for them to bring home.

#### Homework

A new homework system will be launched after the September weekend. There was a mixed response to this, with families being split roughly down the middle as to whether they wanted this or not. The homework distributed will be related to a monthly or termly theme being worked on in class. It will be in the form of weekly tasks. It will be entirely optional for families to decide whether the children do the homework or not, but it is highly recommended that they take part because it consolidates work done in class and will not be new learning. The school will provide all the resources required to complete the homework tasks, and is looking into online workshops, parent workshops and videos to help with this.

## EC School Website

Mrs Coombes (School Secretary) is updating the school website. Minutes and parent council members need to be added to the website.

#### School Trips

The school is currently booking trips for this year. They are booking PACE for this year's Christmas pantomime.

# **Treasurer's Report**

There is no report this month. The board needs to set a date to get Holly Hampsey on the account.

Laura Syme has set up a Woodlands Parent Council account with CONNECT.

#### **Additional Support for Learning**

Mrs Harvey is off on maternity leave and an ASNA from Mary Russell school who teaches and translates braille is covering for her; however at the moment this member of staff is absent, leaving the school without a member of staff that is competent in teaching and translating braille for learners who require to use braille. Renfrewshire Council is looking into a solution to this problem.

Some of the aids required by some of the learners with additional support needs were not in class from day 1 of the new term, and this has caused some problems for the learners concerned. There is a working-time agreement in June of each year for handover to the new class teachers and this issue will be addressed in time for the handover next year.

All teaching staff and classroom assistants are being trained in additional support needs. Every class teacher is getting a day out of class with a member of the Senior Management Team to go through pupil plans. Laura Syme and Pamela Lingard reported on the Girfec Refresh parents update meeting that took place on 5 September 2023.

LB

Children who require epipens to be in the same part of the school with them at all times are finding that this has not always been happening since the beginning of term. Mrs Berry said that support plans for each child are being reviewed, so this situation will be reviewed as well.

## **Fundraising**

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School trips need funds. The school football teams – especially the girls – need strips, and this needs to be top of the list. The parent council will donate towards the p6 trip to Lochgoilhead. The parent council can do bake sales if the ingredients are clearly listed. Karen Tweedy said she can help with bake sales. The parent council has decided to do 2 bake sales this year.

## Disco's

More helpers are needed to help run the disco's. The parent council particularly needs a core group of helpers, to work out what jobs need to be done and assign jobs. There needs to be rules governing behaviour of those attending the disco's, and clear job descriptions for volunteers – both or which require to be communicated clearly to parents so that parents understand the roles of the volunteers, the behaviour required of their children and the consequences of misbehaviour at the disco's. There is a need to make it clear that the disco's are a parent council event, not a school event and therefore the parent council are in charge.

The Halloween disco will take place on 25 October 2023. The school are very kindly allowing the parent council to use the sensory room so the key will be required that evening.

## Swap Shops

The parent council will hold Halloween costume, Christmas Jumper and Christmas pyjamas swap shops this year.

The parent council will have a bake sale stall at the school Christmas Assembly, which is on 20 December 2023. The school are doing the Christmas Fayre this year and the parent council can have a stall or two at that. The subject of the May Fayre was raised and it was decided that we need commitment from consistent helpers to run

this. The May Fayre will be discussed and January's parent council meeting.

Laura Syme is looking to vary the times of the parent council meetings so that all parents have a chance of attending. Room bookings are free during the school day but cost around £20 for evening lets.

#### **Breakfast Club**

Jillian Kerr conducted a poll to see if parents that needed the breakfast club would be willing to pay the £6/child the school would need to charge to keep the breakfast club running. 22% of those polled said they would and 16% said they wouldn't. The school simply doesn't have the funding going forward, most of which would be paying staffing costs. Mrs Berry has spoken to Amey and they said they would require at least 35 attendees per day and the attendance at breakfast club is currently below that. Other breakfast clubs are funded in different ways. The parent council will discuss funding in the group chat.

## P1/P2 Doors

There is still an issue with parents and guardians crowding round the doors at pick up time. Mrs Berry said the school may use cones to move the parents and guardians back to make the way clear for the teachers to see that each child is going away with the correct adult.