

Dundonald Early Years Centre & Primary School Parent Council Meeting Monday 4 November 2019 at 6:30pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Fiona Paterson (Head Teacher), Sam Anderson (Secretary), Lee-Anne Bryson, Julia Kerr (Depute Head Teacher), Nicola Cushley, Mandy Taylor, Michelle Wallace, Kerry Gomez, Susan Macclure, Annie McQuiston, Donna Gilgallon, Catherine McDowell (Acting Principal Teacher), Victoria Milligan

Apologies: Vicky Clark (Treasurer), Fiona Connolly

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Annie McQuiston and seconded by Donna Gilgallon.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. Appointment of new chairperson for 2019-2020

Chair	Nicola Cushley
Proposed	Mandy Taylor
Seconded	Annie McQuiston

Vice Chair	Susan Macclure
Proposed	Annie McQuiston
Seconded	Mandy Taylor

5. Treasurers Report

Vicky reported that the current balance is £2851.66, and that the profit made from the Christmas cards was £319.19. It was mentioned that the Nursery had been quite late in sending out the order forms, which could have contributed to a lower uptake than expected.

6. Head Teacher's report

Fiona provided the following report:

Early Years Centre Care Inspectorate Visit 4th October – Report

Our Early Years Centre was visited by the Care Inspectorate on the 4th October. This was an extremely positive visit, with many strengths highlighted, including: parents' views; children's experiences; staff leadership and our vision for improvement.

Parents' views (excerpts from report):

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'The staff have taken the time to get to know my child and they have such a positive impact on his life'

'The care my child has received in Dundonald EYC is exemplary. We couldn't have wished for a more safe, secure, nurturing. happy place for our child to attend'

'Both my children have absolutely loved Dundonald nursery. The staff are all friendly, professional and approachable. I particularly like how they take advantage of the local area, taking the children to the castle and woods for outdoor learning'

Care and Support – Leadership and Management (excerpts from report):

Staff and management had created a warm, welcoming ethos for children and their families. Parents told us that staff were friendly and approachable. This supported positive relationships being established between staff, children and parents. Staff demonstrated that they knew children well. Interactions were caring and responsive, supporting children to feel safe and secure.

We found children had opportunity to be involved in their own learning. Floorbooks and children's scrapbooks recorded children's experiences. We saw that staff challenged children and provided opportunities for children to become more independent and involved them in planning activities and learning. Children responded well to this.

Staff understood the aims of the service and implemented service policies and procedures. They were confident in carrying out their role. We found that staff leadership opportunities were a key strength within the service.

Discussions with the management team demonstrated a clear vision for continuous improvement. Management had built positive relationships with the staff team and staff we spoke to confirmed they were encouraged to contribute to the development of the service.

The report is available to read in full online. A link to this will also be added to our school website and will be available as a paper version from our school office.

Outdoor Learning – Diggin' Dundonald

All classes enjoyed participating in a Diggin' Dundonald, a local archaeological dig at Dundonald Castle. One of our Primary 4 pupils made an incredible find and uncovered a piece of pottery thought to be around 600 years old! We are extremely grateful to Kirsteen and her team at Dundonald Castle for providing such inspirational learning opportunities for the children.

South Ayrshire Active Schools Competitive Sports – Badminton – Fri 27th September

Dundonald's Badminton team achieved great success at South Ayrshire's first competitive badminton event of this school year. Our team of four players worked extremely hard and showed excellent skills. It was an all Dundonald final, with our pupils achieving first place and runner-up! We are very grateful to the families of the children for supporting them to attend the tournament.

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Marr Rugby Festival for Primary 5 Pupils – Friday 27th September – Marr Playing Fields

Our primary five pupils thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Marr Rugby Festival. This event provided the children with the opportunities to develop their skills in rugby through taking part in a variety of activities and games. We are grateful to Marr Rugby for organizing this event and for providing our school with rugby coaches over the past term.

South Ayrshire Active Schools Competitive Sports – Football – Continued Success

We are delighted to report continued success for our school football team and for our girls' team at recent football competitions. Tomorrow, we play Alloway Primary.

Harvest and Flower Show Celebration Assembly

Our Harvest and Flower Show Celebration Assembly was very successful and very well supported – thank you to everyone who donated food for the foodbank and to those who we able to join us.

Parents' Afternoon and Evening – Thursday 10th October 2019

Our recent Parents' Afternoon and Evening, held on Thursday 10th October, was extremely well attended and we are truly grateful to parents for their support. This is an invaluable opportunity for families and teachers to meet together to discuss children's progress at school.

Breakfast Blether with Mrs Lynsey Brennan – Monday 28th October, 9am

Our school chaplain, Lynsey Brennan, hosted a very successful Breakfast Blether on Monday 28th October at 9am. This was a lovely opportunity for parents to get to know Lynsey and one another.

7. Review of Halloween parties

The Halloween parties took place within the school day on 31st October, and were organised by Julia. There were four parties held in total, with a variety of games and activities for the children, and they seemed to be a great success.

8. Christmas Fayre - 6th December

Various discussions were held about organising the Christmas fayre. Fiona agreed to send out a festive bulletin to parents outlining plans and requests for donations. The format will follow that of the previous year, including the Winter Wonderland in the morning for the children, where everything will be 20p. Classes will make their own crafts to sell, and requests will be made to parents for donations of books and

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homebaking, as well as chocolates, sweets and toiletries for hampers. Staff will provide wine for a wine hamper.

9. Breakfast Club

Susan Macclure confirmed that she was hoping to open the breakfast club in January, subject to approval by all the necessary authorities. This would offer before school care for children aged 5 - 11, on a ratio of 10:1.

10. Date of Next Meeting

This will be on 20th January 2020 at 6.30pm. There will be an additional Christmas Fayre meeting on Friday 22nd November at 3.05pm in the open area.