

Parent Council Annual Report 2022/2023

This has been an eventful year, with many teacher strikes, too many snow days to count and a lot of preparation for a new Head Teacher. Although things feel more back to normal now after COVID-19, it's busier with extra-curricular activities for the bairns. I've felt much busier this year than the last few and I'm sure I'm not only one feeling the same!

The summer holidays are not that far away now and this year end is also the end of a Parent Council term (2 years) which means we will need parents to volunteer for election, please and thank you!

Here is a reminder of what both the Parent Forum and the Parent Council are. The Parent Forum is made up of ALL parents with children at Lunnasting Primary School – you are automatically a member when your child starts nursery and are welcome to attend meetings. It allows parents to support the school in non-academic ways by organising events, helping fundraise and also gives parents a chance to share any concerns, opinions and ideas relating the school. From this group we elect a Parent Council who work with the staff/teachers on more formal aspects of the school. They represent the views of and report back to the Parent Forum. They also liaise with the Pupil Council to ensure their views are recognised.

Both groups share a Chairperson, I've been a co-opted member since September 2019, becoming a parent member in 2022, and I volunteered for Chair in September 2022. It's been out of my comfort zone, but you sometimes have to accept new challenges!

We have one meeting a term. I also attended Bi-Annual Chairs meetings in November and May. I did the online training Role for Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary for parent groups in January with Connect, which was intriguing to find out what the different roles were about.

The PC members are myself as Chair, Leona Grains as Vice Chair, Louise Manson, Charlotte Allam and Graeme Wallace as Parent Members, Tori Johnson as Staff member, and we welcomed Abbey Thompson as a co-opted member this year. Fiona Marshall - Head Teacher attends meetings in an advisory capacity and Linda Hughson is our Clerk. Local Councillors and the Quality Improvement Officers are invited to attend meetings.

The Parent Forum AGM is held every September and it's where the events and fundraising for the year ahead are discussed. We need more parents to attend the AGM so your voice will be heard and you can help with the decisions for future events. There's not been any fundraising in two years so that's something we can think about doing at our next AGM.

Huge thank you to previous office bearers Mari Williamson, Alison Christie and Clare Hastie for all your time and contributions. The new office bearers, elected in September 2023, were Abbey Thompson as Treasurer and Tori Johnson as Secretary, thank you for taking on these positions.

The PC discuss a broad range of topics concerning the school during the year, everything from staffing, action plan, events, and a lot of discussion and concern has been about the garden. We are very grateful that a peerie group was set up by Charlotte Allam and those involved are Steven Robertson, Vailla Wallace, Laura Hay, Karen Hay and Abbey Thompson called the Garden Gang. They had arranged a Garden Tidy Up in May for parents, bairns and folk within the community to come and help sort it out. It's looking amazing! Huge thank you and well done to all who took the time to lend a hand, it's very much appreciated!

The school was delighted to have super visits from both Nesting Jarl Squad in February and the Delting Jarl Squad in March. The school has also had trips to Lerwick. Huge well done to The Pupil Council, pupils and staff for their fundraiser events! They had organised various discos like the Red Nose Day with £189.80 raised for Comic Relief and the Children in Need disco raised £166.88! The Christmas card delivery raised £379.15 for school funds. Amazing! The school will need more helpers to get them delivered next time. There was also a Macmillian coffee afternoon held in September.

We were all pleased that both the Halloween and Christmas parties could go ahead with the Halloween party having no band this time but trying out a playlist by pupils. The Parent Forum provided Halloween treats. Both parties were a big success, huge thank you to Clare Hastie, Tori Johnson, Mari Williamson and Abbey Thompson for organising and another thank you to Abbey and Tori for arranging the Pantomime.

Da Voar Redd Up was in April 22-29th this year, huge thanks to all who helped and to Tori for providing a map at the shop, really appreciated it.

Another reminder is for parents to try out, if you haven't already, and use the Easy Fundraising App when buying online from websites like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more! It donates a percentage of your purchase/s and it helps raise money for the school fund. So far £187.29 has been raised!

As you all know, we are very heavy hearted that Fiona will be leaving us to retire after the summer. She has given the school 19 1/2 years of hard work, commitment, inclusiveness, kindness, compassion, nurturing, time, fun, support and complete dedication to this school. It has been an absolute pleasure having a Head Teacher like her. We are forever grateful for the encouragement and professionalism she has shown throughout her time here. She will be a huge miss! It will be strange not seeing her beaming smile and positivity in the school but I'm sure whoever joins after summer will be given a huge welcome and a lot of time to adjust to their new role. The Parent Council & Parent Forum would like to wish Fiona all the best for the future, to take it easy and to enjoy her retirement and to visit us all soon!

I would also like to give thanks and appreciation to Graeme Wallace and Louise Manson for their support and giving up their time to come with myself for online training, shortlisting, interviews, secondment, and more interviews for the process of Head Teacher. It's been an eye opener of how thorough the process is and it's not quick! It's taken many months and emails. We are pleased there is finally someone in place for after the summer as acting Head Teacher. We would like to wish Mrs Louise Malcolmson all the very best in her new job and we welcome her to Lunnasting Primary School.

The Parent Council would like to pass on its continued thanks to Linda, our clerk, for all her help and support through the year. We also would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Marshall and all staff for their continued support, their dedication and hard work thorough out the year. Finally a huge thank you to all parents, extended family, friends and community members who support the school in its events.

Wishing you all lovely summer!

Amy Irvine
Chair
Lunnasting Parent Council

Four Volunteers are needed to form the Parent Council; present members can volunteer again and if there are more people than places an election will be held at the Parent Forum AGM in September. Please return the attached form to the school, or email lunnasting@shetland.gov.uk if you wish to volunteer. Thank you.

Name.....

I am willing to be a member of the Lunnasting Parent Council

Signed.....

Date