

## **Whiteness Primary School Parent Council Meeting held at the Whiteness Primary School & Microsoft Teams on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm**

### **Present:**

Darren Silver (Chair)  
Catherine Hughson (Councillor)  
Rachel Colclough (Head Teacher)  
Paula Somerville (Clerk)  
Stewart Somerville (Parent Member)  
Diane Forsyth (Staff Member)  
Monica Moncrieff (Vice-Chair)  
Dawn Smith (Parent Member)  
Moraig Lyall (Councillor)

### **Apologies**

Sue Marshall (Parent Member)  
Davie Sandison (Councillor)

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Darren welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Sue Marshall and Davie Sandison.

### **2. Approval of Previous Meeting**

The previous minutes from the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved by Stewart and seconded by Rachel.

### **3. Matters arising from previous meeting**

- Stewart and Sue to be added to the distribution list. *Complete.*
- Rachel requested an up to date list of committee members. *Complete.*
- Darren advised that Kathleen Kent will make contact with Paula regarding her new role as clerk. *Paula to contact Kathleen directly.*
- The newly established crossing patrol was discussed. Some members of the group felt the timing of the patrol did not best suit pupils/parents. Rachel stated she would send out a survey to parents requesting them to advise what ten minute time slot would suit them best. – *Complete*

### **4. Head Teacher's Report and SIP**

The report was shared with all attendees. See report detailed below:

#### **Head teacher report to Parent Council 12 Feb 2024**

##### **Leadership and Management**

- We have a full complement of teaching and support staff
- Miss Nicola Morrison has joined us in Early Years, covering Mrs Rachel Morris' maternity leave.
- As part of the Children's Services School Improvement Framework- we had a School Improvement Visit in December 2023- The report from this visit was very positive highlighting many areas of good work. The visit focussed on safeguarding, School Improvement Plan progress, Assessment and Moderation.

- Updates on progress within our 2023/2024 School Improvement Plan and Early Years Plan have been shared with parents at the end of Term Two.
- We have a MA 3<sup>rd</sup> year student working in P12 on placement for 5 weeks in Term Three.

### **Learning provision**

- We reported to parents through our parents' evenings in November 2023 and the Christmas concert
- A week of snow interrupted learning the second week of Term Three. Teaching staff provided learning opportunities daily via their class Glow Blogs for all pupils in primary. All school staff used the time productively to meet (virtually) and to update training requirements, collaborate and work on School Improvement priorities.
- P3/4/5 complete their 6 week swimming block tomorrow.
- Early Years parents and new parents from the Toddler Group, came along to a Stay and Play session in Early Years last week.
- We hold Inclusive Committees in school. This term- P1/2 are the Pupil Council and they have been gathering data on how good OUR school is from the children in the other classes. P3/4/5 are our Eco Committee and P5/6/7 are our Health Committee.

### **Successes and achievements**

- P5 pupils have completed a block of session developing their Young Leader skills- with Sanna from Active Schools.
- All primary pupils have been taking part in traditional dancing during their class PE time for the first part of Term Three.
- Drumming has begun again this term in preparation for our Love Learning Love Life day at the end of term.
- We held another successful Grandparent Afternoon in January. We had many grandparents come along and a few stayed for a cup of tea/coffee afterwards.
- We welcomed the NGUHA into school on Friday 9 February.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Darren advised that Sue has decided to step down as treasurer. Darren will continue with this role in the interim. The closing balance of the account is £2833.46. We have received income from the Christmas Concert, Easyfundraising and Zip It.

## **6. Seating for the polycrubs**

A discussion was held regarding getting seating in the polycrubs and new picnic benches. Rachel stated that the picnic benches would need to be made from plastic to avoid them deteriorating. *Action – Rachel to contact Bridges and Shetland Community Benefit Fund regarding funding for seating. Parent Council are also happy to contribute to the purchase of seating.*

## **7. Update on School Improvement Plan / Team Improvement Visit**

Rachel advised that the Team Improvement Visit is part of the school improvement framework and will be carried out on the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March. During this visit officers will be keen to gather the views of teachers, management, pupils and parents/carers. Rachel added a questionnaire is likely to be sent out for parents/carers to complete. *Action - Rachel will send out an email to parents/carers making them aware of the Team Improvement Visit and the purpose of this.* Rachel added that this visit will prepare the school for an overdue inspection. Rachel welcomes the visit as it will provide good learning for everyone involved.

## **8. External Funding Opportunities**

Darren stated that Tesco has been in touch regarding the opportunity to apply for funding. The group agreed that we should apply for funding to improve the outdoor play area. *Action – Darren to complete application.*

A discussion was held regarding the progress of arranging a movie day/night to raise funds. Monica has set up a poll to decide what film to show. *Action - Monica to approach local business for donations. Rachel to share poster with parents when complete.* Date of event to be confirmed. Darren noted that a fee will have to be paid to show the movie.

## **9. AOB**

The school requires various resources. The group requested that the school compiles a list of what they require and this will be considered and, if suitable, approved. The parent council will donate the funds to the school and they can make the purchases as they will not be charged VAT.

Diane stated that the school will be working in the polycrub this term. *Action - Dawn advised she would get a group of volunteers together and prep the area for planting.* New watering cans are required. It was agreed the parent council would pay for these. *Action – Dawn to purchase watering cans from the plantiecrub and claim back the cost.*

The group agreed that a parent council Facebook page would be helpful for communicating with the community and to recruit more parent council members. *Action – Monica agreed to set up a parent council page on Facebook.*

The parent council confirmed they would run a crèche service during parent's evening on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Attendees had no further points to raise.

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next Parent Council meeting will be Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the school and on Microsoft Teams.

Darren thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.