

Whitiness Primary School Parent Council Meeting held at the Whitiness Primary School & Microsoft Teams on 16th September 2024 at 6.30pm

Present:

Stewart Somerville (Chair)
Catherine Hughson (Councillor)
Rachel Colclough (Head Teacher)
Paula Somerville (Clerk)
Rebecca Waldie (Parent Member)
Diane Forsyth (Staff Member)
Monica Moncrieff (Parent Member)
Dawn Smith (Vice Chair)
Shona Sim (Parent Member)
Darren Silver (Treasurer)

Apologies

Morag Lyall (Councillor)
Davie Sandison (Councillor)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Morag Lyall and Davie Sandison.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting

The previous minutes from the meeting held on 4th December 2023 were approved by Rachel and seconded by Monica.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

No matters were discussed from the previous meeting.

4. Head Teacher's Report and SIP

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

Head teacher report to Parent Council 16 September 2024

Leadership and Management

- We have a full complement of teaching staff.
- I have successfully recruited to our vacant Senior Practitioner ELC post. Lindsey Hay will be taking up the position after the October break.
- We had an authority led Team Improvement Visit in March 2024. This was very positive and highlighted the good work of the school
- We had an inspection from His Majesties Inspectors and the Care Inspectorate in June 2024- the high level messages are to be shared during the Parent Council meeting today and the summary of inspection findings will be published on the Education Scotland website on Tuesday 17 September.
- We have some additional LSW hours, filled by existing staff, to meet our additional support needs in school.
- We welcome Monica Moncrieff into her established post- Play Support Worker (Schools).

Learning provision

- Early Years parents have been involved with Stay and Play sessions and the Smart Play Network.
- P6 pupils took part in the local Euroquiz heats.
- We welcomed our grandparents into school for a tour of “what’s on our doorstep”
- Parents had opportunity to see pupils work and art during our open afternoon in May.
- Our JRSO’s presented at the Town Hall in June.
- P6 pupils completed bikeability skills.

Successes and achievements

- Children enjoyed taking part in World Book Day in March
- Parents were reported to during parents evening in March for Primary and May for Early years and also in June with the end of year report.
- P7 pupils completed work on Person Centred Planning in collaboration with Community Connection.
- P7 enjoyed many transition events through March to June, including the Voxter overnight trip.
- The whole school took part in World Planting Day in March- sowing wild flower seeds around the school grounds.
- We celebrated our annual Love Learning Love Life Day at the end of term 3.
- A team of P5-7 pupils represented the school in both the primary football and netball leagues.
- The school took part in Da Voar Redd Up

5. School Improvement Plan

As part of the School Improvement Plan the Whiteness Primary School is collaborating with other schools to compare many factors including their level of assessment, pupil’s level of work and the quality of teaching. It is hoped this work will help to raise attainment.

Rachel informed the group that the authority has published new guidance regarding Learning, Teaching and Assessment for all schools.

6. Changes this year

Rachel highlighted that there will not be a Christmas concert this year. Instead there will be a school enterprise event. All pupils are excited about this change. *The Parent Council to consider ways of raising funds at this event.*

The school is considering changing the Love Learning Love Life concert. Drumming will still continue in the school.

The Pupil Council are currently revamping the star pupil awards to focus more on the school values.

Pupils have been surveyed and decided that the committees this term will be Digital, STEM and Pupil Council.

There will be music assemblies' held once a term.

7. First Aid for P5-P7 Children

Rachel advised that the school is considering P5-7 completing their Young Emergency Aider Award. This would equip children to deal with emergency's at home. This course would be provided by Grampian Training Services.

There is a number of positive testimonies that Rachel will share with the group. The course would be delivered over 1.5 days and the cost would be £750. There is a provisional booking for this training to be delivered in Oct. *The group were in agreement that the Parent Council would support part of the cost for the training.* Rachel confirmed that parents would have to consent to their child completing the training.

8. Consulting Parents on how the school spends PEF funds

To ensure the school is meeting the needs of all learners they receive Pupil Equity Funding from the government. This funding is generally spent on additional staff to support pupils with literacy and numeracy. As part of the inspection they recommended consulting parents on how this fund is spent.

Rachel will send out a survey asking parents if they are in agreement the funds should be spent on staffing.

9. HMIE and Care Inspection Update

Rachel advised that the inspection report will be published tomorrow.

The Parent Council will put a post on Facebook regarding the report when it has been published.

10. Class Resources

Diane thanked the parent council for the resources they provided during the last session. A special thanks was given to Stewart for his support with sourcing a variety of resources and building equipment.

Diane advised that the P1/2 class could really benefit from more Dandelion Launchers books as they are really good at assisting pupils to learn how to read using the phonics scheme. The cost for two copies of each book at all stages would be £216 pounds. *The Parent Council agreed to cover the cost for this purchase.*

11.AOB

The Parent Council needs to consider ways of raising funds. This can be discussed further offline in the parent council group chat on Facebook.

12.Next Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting dates to be confirmed as soon as possible.