

Whiteness Primary School Parent Council Meeting held at the Whiteness Primary School & Microsoft Teams on 10th November 2025 at 6.30pm

Present:

Stewart Somerville (Chair)
Rachel Colclough (Head Teacher)
Paula Somerville (Clerk)
Rebecca Waldie (Parent Member)
Dawn Smith (Parent Member)
Catherine Hughson (Councillor)
Shona Sim (Parent Member)
Moraig Lyall (Councillor)

Apologies

Davie Sandison (Councillor)
Jess Sales (Parent Member)
Simon Boyd (Parent Member)
Rona Simpson (Parent Member)
Lynne Mayda (Parent Member)
Diane Forsyth (Staff Member)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Rona Jamieson, Lynne Mayda, Diane Forsyth, Simon Boyd, Davie Sandison and Jess Sales.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting

The previous minutes from the meeting held on 8th Sept 2025 were approved by Rachel and seconded by Dawn.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

Stewart advised that the Cycle Access Fund application had been rejected as it required more detailed information regarding pupils. Rachel to support Stewart with any further applications.

Stewart stated that applications for the Viking Community Fund had closed. Catherine highlighted that the parent council could apply for funding from the Community Council. Stewart to submit an application for picnic benches.

Shona advised that Art Machine would get the no dogs allowed signs to the school as soon as possible.

4. Treasurers Report

Stewart and Dawn are working together to try and get all the account details up to date. Once they have all the invoices/receipts required they will contact Karen Robertson to complete the audit of the accounts.

5. Head Teachers Report

Leadership and Management

- *Jenny-Lane Laurenson in Early Years has sustained a nasty break to the ankle- she is being backfilled by Faye Anderson- until further notice.*

Learning provision

- *P3/4 children have completed their swimming block.*

- *P1/2 children have started their swimming block.*
- *P1/2 enjoyed a class trip to Voxter woods and Voe Soft Play.*
- *P5/6, as part of their project on the Romans, made Roman food and invited all classes to come and sample it.*
- *P3/4 enjoyed their class trip to the North Mainland swimming pool and Voxter woods.*
- *P3-7 took part in a planetarium session with Dynamic Earth.*

Successes and achievements

- *The Parent Council and Tesco worked in partnership to provide a great-School Snack Day again in September. The children really enjoyed everything that was on offer.*
- *The annual coffee morning went well in October. Money was raised for the Eco Committee to buy recycling bins for each classroom.*
- *Children performed for parents at the Music Assembly in October.*
- *Parents donated Shoeboxes to the Blythswood Appeal*

6. School Improvement Plan Update – SIP

Rachel confirmed that the school has met with relevant colleagues regarding tracking pupil's literacy. All relevant pupils are now being tracked, and this will be reviewed in the new year.

The school continues to focus on high quality learning and teaching.

7. Draft attendance infographic - Rachel

A discussion was held regarding the draft attendance infographic. The group agreed that each of the posters contained valuable information. The group were also in agreement that the bespoke poster for Whiteness should detail that their attendance is above the average for Shetland. It was also felt that it is important to inform parents of what is considered an unauthorised absence. The group were also in favour of including information regarding how much education is missed with 90 percent attendance.

8. AOB

On behalf of Jess, Paula put forward the idea of have a bonfire night at Strom Park to raise funds for the parent council. It was suggested that the group could consider doing a neurodiverse light show to appeal to a wider group of children. This will be discussed further on the parent council chat. The parent council will have a raffle at the Christmas council to raise funds.

Rachel to confirm dates for future meetings.

Stewart thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.