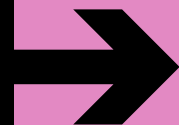


# Chair's report 2022-23



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**PRESENTED BY:**

Emma Ives

**PRESENTED TO:**

Black Mount Primary  
Parent Council AGM

**DATE:**

19 September 2023

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## About Black Mount Primary Parent Council

The parent council came together in September 2022 to make plans for 2022-23. We have managed to achieve a huge amount of activity and this is thanks to the incredible hard work of our families, staff and community.

### Parent council from 2022-23:

- Emma Ives (chair)
- Nick Tucker (vice-chair)
- Catriona Malone (treasurer)
- Alison Boyd, Dan Brunton, Jenni Dods, Gregor Doyle, Katie Hobbs, Kirsten Jenkins, Jim Kinloch, Wendy Kinloch, Alistair Muirhead, Angela Murray, Tracey Pritchard, Corrie Ward, Helen Ward (members).

## What we achieved in 2022-23

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Beetle Drive	Well attended games night bringing the school community together for food and fun	11 November 2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Film Night	School families watched Sonic 2 at the Biggar Corn Exchange	3 February 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Pagoda / Gazebo	The children welcomed the building of the new	April 2023

	gazebo/pagoda in the school grounds	
<input type="checkbox"/> Duck Race	Families came together at Dunsyre River and children braved the cold water for the race	19 May 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Biggar Gala Day	Families helped build the incredible float on the theme of 1950s beach holiday and kids had a blast as the prize-winning float toured Biggar	17 June 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Polytunnel	The polytunnel is coming together and will have three raised beds for school, nursery and community to grow things.	Summer-Autumn 2023

Other activity included: organised and collected community gift for retiring teacher Dorothy Ramsay, bought school bags for the new primary one starts (£56), we have been using parent donations to buy biscuits for the kids snack time (£115 remains), we contributed towards materials to decorate the prize winning Gala Day float (£192.26).

## Fundraising

SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
Parent donations (aka the Biscuit fund)	Parents collected money for staff Christmas gifts but they asked us to spend this on something for all so this money is being used to buy snack time biscuits for the kids	£230
Building and Connecting Communities Fund from VASLAN (Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire)	To develop the community garden at Black Mount Primary School for school and community use	£2500
Film Night funds	Excess funds from the film night tickets	£87 (profit)
Biggar Farmers Club	For Gazebo/Pagoda purchase and build	£1000

Black Mount Community Council	For gardening tools and equipment	£500
Duck Race at Dunsyre	Funds raised from duck/food sales for May Duck Race	£612 (profit)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS RAISED 22-23</b>		<b>£4929</b>

## Finances

OPENING BALANCE (Sept 2022)	INCOME 22-23	EXPENDITURE 22-23	CLOSING BALANCE (Sept 2023)
£1861	£5707	£5625	<b>£1942</b> <i>(incl approx £615 ringfenced)</i>

*\*Closing balance includes some income/expenditure for activities for 2023-24. The parent council keeps track of all spend/receipts for each year and offers updates regularly at parent council meetings. There is still some ring-fenced funding for garden tools and equipment from the BMCC funding (£500) to spend. **See the 2022-23 treasurers report for full breakdown.***

## Some images





*Images above: The pagoda from the old school (which burned down) and the new one built in 2023. The primary seven leavers all mentioned the loss of the original pagoda/gazebo as something that had really impacted them and were pleased the new one had arrived before they headed to high school!*





*Images above: Return of the Dunsyre Duck Race - a huge success*



*Images above: Side view of the Biggar Gala Day float from 2023 - prize winner*



*Images above: Work progressing on the new polytunnel in the school grounds with the help of local families*

## **FEEDBACK from families**

We try to be as inclusive as possible and ask for feedback as much as possible. In January 2023 we held a community consultation with members of the public about the outdoor space, in March 2023 parent council representatives were available during parent-teacher meetings to answer any questions and ask for ideas.

We also issued a short survey for families to complete on the past year of activities and ideas/thoughts for 2023-24. Overall there was very positive feedback with people

acknowledging the range of activities - showing all the hard work done by the parent council and parent forum is valued.

Some parents/carers offered ideas for things they would like the parent council to focus on moving forward and these included:

- **Supporting the school**
  - Continue to support the school
  - Improving communication with teachers and school
  - Enhance school curriculum, e.g. art exhibition, music, cinema night, duck race
- **Continued development of the outside space:**
  - Develop play areas further
  - The garden project
  - Complete outdoor space with equipment etc that can be used out of school hours by the community
- **Continue and develop the events we run, including connecting with the community**
  - More events
  - More fundraising and Community Events
  - Maintain the same number of social activities
  - Keeping the frequent events and involving the community where possible
  - Work closely with Community Council
  - Organise more of the same out of school activities and events.
  - Some school only and some community activities
- **Continue to look at how we can include Newbigging in the catchment area**

## Looking ahead into 2023-34

We have already had our first 2023-24 event with the walk up Black Mount hill in August 2023 and this was a resounding success. We partnered with the Black Mount Social Group and they are keen to continue this partnership in years to come.

We also have dates in the diary for events over the next 12 months (some TBC) which is a great start to the new school year, including;

- Car Treasure Hunt and pizza on 30th September 2023
- Games Night (tbc) on 17th November 2023
- Art installation / tile project will return in November 2023 (date TBC)
- Ceilidh (tbc) on 19th January 2024
- Family Film Night on 16th February 2024
- Return of the Duck Race in May 2024
- Biggar Gala day in June 2024

## HUGE THANK YOU

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, carers, kids, staff and families who made the 2022-23 parent council activities such a success. There is so much energy,

enthusiasm and positivity in our school community and I look forward to seeing what next year brings!

## Keeping up to date

We have built a website for our activities that includes a google calendar of dates and minutes from the parent council meetings.

Check it out here: <https://sites.google.com/view/bm-parent-council/>

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