

## ST MARY'S PARENT COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT – 2019/2020

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Its been a year like none of us have ever experienced. The way school – and life in general – will look over the coming school year will be something we all have to adjust to.
- 1.2 There will be plenty written about that in the coming months. At the time of writing this report, we should all have just received Ms Feeley's excellent letter. It will no doubt give rise to further questions.
- 1.3 For the moment, however, we don't want to look forward but instead to take a few moments of your time to look back over the last school year and remind ourselves of what we, together managed to achieve for our children at St Marys.

#### 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 In September 2019 the Parent Council set nine objectives. We spent the following school year trying to achieve those objectives. This is how we got on:-

##### 2.2 Fundraising group

*A new fundraising group will be set up with those who previously expressed an interest in a fundraising group via a survey monkey.*

This was successfully set up and the fundraising for this year was outstanding, particularly for the tracksuit. Unfortunately, the participation the group was not as great as hoped and it sort of petered out. We need more help from parents to raise funds.

##### 2.3 Tracksuits:

*One of the main objectives for fundraising this year is to raise money to purchase new tracksuits for the cross country events.*

We managed to do this very quickly, with the gift a kit idea being particularly successful. The children were able to wear the kits at the cross country event in March. The kits will be retained by the school and used by the p6s and p7s for all future events.

##### 2.4 High-Vis vests

*The school wanted these for P1s.*

Specsavers donated them to the school.

## 2.5 Social event

*We wished to organise an event through the year which will focus on bringing people together within the school community and raise funds for the school.*

We organised and promoted the Race Night. It had to be cancelled due to low numbers. We presume this was due to the emergence of the threat of coronavirus at that time.

## 2.6 Support core values

*We wanted to help support the implementation of the new core values.*

This is an ongoing objective, but in the last year we worked with Ms Feeley on the core values, providing input and helping with interviews and feedback when required.

## 2.7 Succession

*Ensuring there is the chance of growth and succession within the Parent Council.*

This year was the last year of Reg and Kathleen Smith, the former chair and vice-chair of the committee. They've worked tirelessly to help improve St Mary's and what it can offer our children. We welcomed three new members to the committee: Laura McNicol, Kirsty Lumosi and Matthew Farrell. Tracy Purves continued as treasurer. Dan O'Donnell is the representative from the Church. Lisa Fraser, Mhairi McMillan, Maureen Kelly, Kathleen Campbell, Anne Silver, Claire Newling and Julia Marrs have all made significant contributions over the year. We need more help.

## 2.8 Polytunnel training

*In the 2018 / 19 school year, the committee raised money for a poly tunnel, plants and equipment. This year we wanted to put it to use. We wanted to organise training for the staff to help them with use of the poly tunnel.*

Stuart from Castlebank park ran a Saint Mary's exclusive training session for the staff of St Mary's.

## 2.9 Communication

We wanted to improve how we communicated with the parents and carers to encourage more engagement.

*We've increased our use of Facebook. We've helped encourage the use of the St Mary's APP by the school so that it has become the primary means of communication.*

## 2.10 Improving and increasing social responsibility

*We wanted to create an opportunity for our children to engage with community and understand the environment.*

We were planning a litter pick for the last term of school. That became impossible. We will move this objective to next year

## 3 ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 We're proud of what all of us together have achieved in the last year. As well as the above, we were also one of the best schools in South Lanarkshire for Beat the Street.

3.2 There is so much more that we can do. We haven't even begun to tap into the potential of the myriad skills of the St Mary's parent and carer group. We want to start a football and netball team. We want to continue to give our children the chance to try other activities like skiing and climbing. We want to put AstroTurf in the fenced area in front of the school. We'll do the litter pick. We want to increase our use of facebook. There will hopefully be a social event for all parents and carers.

3.3 We can only do all of this with your help: your help on the committee; your help by supporting events with donations and volunteering your time; and your help with ideas and suggestions.

## 4 FINANCES

4.1 We have already been supporting the school with donations of zip wallets for the children and things like yellow paint for line marking and duct tape. With the opportunity for fund raising limited as a result of coronavirus, we'll need to come up with innovative ways to raise money for the school.

4.2 The Unaudited Accounts for the School Year 19/20 are attached for parents' review.

## 5 FUTURE

5.1 This school year coming will be a challenging one. We'll make it the best it can be if we all pull in the same direction.

5.2 If you'd like to join the committee, are able to offer your help and skills, or have suggestions, please get in touch with us at [stmaryslanarkparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslanarkparentcouncil@gmail.com)