Bellsquarry Primary School Parent Council

Newsletter November 2016

**Dates for your diary**

Thursday 3rd November **Charity bags to school** – please bring your unwanted clothes, belts, bags, shoes and sheets to the school between 8am-9am. If Sarah & Alison (the bag ladies!!) aren’t there when you arrive just put your bags behind the wall.

Friday 18th November **Dress down day for Chocolate** – see below for more details

Friday 25th November **Christmas Fayre** 1pm – 3pm

Please join us to celebrate Christmas. The children will be selling their enterprise projects, Santa will be there as well as raffle, home baking, chocolate tombola, toy stall.

Monday 28th November **Parent Council Meeting** in school 7pm. All parents welcome.

**How to contact us**

Email pcbellsquarry@gmail.com

Sarah Henley, Chair sjwhenley@gmail.com

Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1746901748884644/>

**Communication**

One of our mums Nadia Maqbool along with her children have developed the Parent Council Noticeboard. You will find it on the wall opposite the school reception. Please go and view it. They have made a fantastic job. This is just one of our ways of communicate to all our parents. Nadia will be keeping this up-to-date with the activities of the parent council. If you have any suggestions to improve it or any comments for the Parent Council, you can post in the box at the noticeboard or on our FB group page or to our email pcbellsquarry@gmail.com . Watch out for a photo of the new noticeboard on the FB group page!

**WE NEED YOU!**

Ms McMaster is appealing for creative parents to help paint a design on the outdoor storage containers. Is this you? Can you help? If yes, please speak to Ms McMaster.

**Fundraising & Events**

**Past events**

**Halloween Disco**

Thank you to all the parents that helped at the Halloween disco. We had 154 kids over the 2 sessions and helped raise in the region of £150 for the school. Final figure still to be announced.

**Christmas Cards & Mugs**

The children’s Christmas cards and mugs have arrived. Fiona Beveridge will sort them out and they will be coming to you in the next week. Thank you to all the parents who contributed to this. You helped raise £223.80 for the school

**Forthcoming events**

**Christmas Fayre**

25th November 1-3pm Parents - Can you help with any of the following:

* We are looking for raffle prizes. Can the company you work for provide a raffle prize?
* Or can you provide prizes that we can then make into hampers? i.e. Anything food or drink related or anything home or beauty related. So bottle of wine, perfume, candles, shampoo etc. Much appreciated
* Can you spare some time on the day? We will need help manning the stalls. The more people we have the less time everyone has to do. Even if you can only do 30mins then that is a great help.
* We will also be looking for home baking for the day itself. Please bring these in on the morning of the fayre or when you collect your child at 12.25pm.
* There will be a pre-loved toy stall and any donations of nearly new toys would be appreciated. Please do not hand these into school until 20th November onwards as the school has limited space to store them.

**Dress down day for chocolate**

Friday, 18th November - Kids can dress down for chocolate! For the privilege of wearing your own clothes, you need to pay us in CHOCOLATE! – it can be a chocolate bar, box of chocolates, chocolate biscuits, drinking chocolate etc. We will then use all these treats for the chocolate tombola at the Christmas fayre.

**Sponsor a Book**

The classroom libraries are in need of new books. In partnership with the school to help replenish the libraries we are holding a Sponsor a Book drive. The school will compile a list of books for each classroom with the help of the children and teachers. We will then ask families to buy a book you would like from the list. This book will then hold a name plaque on the inside cover to say which family donated it. We hope to start this initiative 21 November which is the start of National Book Week and run till the end of the year. More details will come shortly.

We’ve an event coming up in the new term - **East meets West for Mums and daughters**. We don’t have a date yet, but hopefully will have more details next month. We are also looking at doing our hugely successful **Ceilidh** again. More details to come.

**PLEA TO ALL PARENTS**

If your children have finished with any nearly new books or games and you are looking for somewhere to pass them onto, then please give them into school. They will be distributed around the classrooms and breakfast club. All donations will be gratefully received. Thank you.

**What are we fundraising for?**

At the last Parent Council Meeting, we discussed with school staff about what resources are needed to help with our children’s learning and to help develop the school.

We agreed the following actions with the school.

Items that will be actioned and paid for in the short-term

* spelling games and Maths games for extension activities
* Reading books/ novels for the upper school as many were torn/outdated and could do with replacement or updated.
* Jolly phonics reading books to supplement the 8 copies they have per reader.

Items that will be looked into and will need on-going fundraising for

* getting the playground painted to enhance the children’s playtime experiences
* A trim trail for the children to enjoy and develop physical skills.

Are there any parents who have any project management knowledge or just an interest to research into trim trail / playground activities? A team of parents would be welcomed to achieve this goal.

**Car Parking /Road Safety**

We continue to be concerned about the safety of children outside school whether walking, cycling or being dropped off. Despite numerous communications, parents and carers continue to park irresponsibly and it’s putting the children at risk.  This will now be escalated to the appropriate authorities and steps will be put in place to try to prevent this ongoing issue over the coming weeks.  Can we ask you to arrive in plenty of time if you are dropping off or collecting children from school?  Can we also remind you not to park on corners, resident’s driveways, white lines or double park.  Last week the crossroads outside the school was completely blocked due to cars parked up on pavements.  This is unacceptable as it’s your child you are putting at risk. Please be considerate.

**Dates of all the PC meetings**

Monday 28th November 7pm

Monday 23 January

Monday 13 March

Monday 24 April

Monday 5 June

**Your Parent Council**

All parents as members of the Parent Forum are welcome to come along to any of the above meetings. You do not need to be a representative of the Parent Council to come along. We will make you very welcome. However, if you are unable to come and would like something raised, then please contact one of the Parent Council members or email us on pcbellsquarry@gmail.com

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| Parent Name | Name of child/ren | Primary Class |
| Sarah Henley (Chair) | Milly | P7 |
| Paul Keegan (Vice Chair) | Anna | P4 |
| Jon Reid (Vice Chair) | Luke | P4 |
| Linda Hennessey (Treasurer) | Cameron | P5 |
| Domhnall Dods (Secretary) | Alastair | P6 |
| Lorraine Hart | Rebecca | P4 |
| Gillian Morrison | Ross & Ellen | P7 |
| Lynne Currie | Kirstin & Charlotte | P2 & P4 |
| Morag Hill | Matthew & Suzanna | P7 & P6 |
| Nadia Maqbool | Abdur-Rahmaan & Nur-Aasiya | P3/2 & P5 |
| Dawn Wilson | Cayden & Corrin | P6 & P4 |
| Nikki Cooper | Skyla, Lochlan, Phoenix | P5, P3, P1 |
| Gemma Gough | Angus & Maisy | P4 & P2 |
| Martin Rutherford | Zoe & Beth | P3/2 & P1 |
| Pauline Arnott | Ava  | P4 |
| Fiona Beveridge | Katie & Erin | P6 & P4 |
| Annette Barlass | Callum | P4 |
| Becky Jennet |  | Nursery |
| **Co-opted** |  |  |
| Barney Todd, Principle Teacher |  |  |
| Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Local Councillor |  |  |
| Jackie Marra, School Secretary |  |  |
| Christine HayBellsquarry Community Council Rep |  |  |

Date of Next Parent Council Meeting Monday 28th November 7pm in school