

Macduff Primary School Parent Council – 28th February 2023

(Teams meeting online)

Attendees: Claire Mackie (CM), Susan Cook (SC), Jan Grant (JG), Neil Mackenzie (NM), Lisa Campbell (LC), David Watt (DW),

Co-opted members (in attendance): Rev Hugh O'Brien (HO), Helen James (HJ), Cllr Ross Cassie (RC), Cllr Richard Menard (RM), Karen Catto (KC).

1. Apologies: Stuart Beveridge (SB) Christine Powell (CP), Elaine West (EW), PC Zubaj (PCZ)

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Minutes reviewed and accepted.

3. Treasurer's Annual Report, November 2021 – November 2022 (SC on behalf of SB)

Opening Balance £250.56

Income from Aberdeenshire Council £326.70

Closing Balance £577.26

4. Headteacher's report (HJ)

HJ has agreed to put a link from the school website to the Parent Council Meeting minutes. This will allow anybody to view them. SC to send to HJ once written up.

Staffing levels are an ongoing issue. Miss Thompson is leaving, however they are hopeful that there may be a new P1 teacher employed.

Miss Thompson is going to be taking a maths 'Stretch group' to challenge the older pupil's maths skills, after the Easter holiday until summer.

The teaching staff are currently compiling a comprehensive guidebook to help the transition from Nursery to P1. The parents now have access to Q&A info. on the Google Classroom page.

Gwen Sutherland has been off on sick leave, so Lesley Simpson and Aileen Clark have been sharing her role.

The Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) have begun. Starting with P7's, then P4's and finally P1's being assessed.

Parents can access the data via the Parent Zone @ Education Scotland. They can compare results with those of other schools.

<http://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-school/school-information-dashboard/>

Macduff Primary has been grouped with Clerkhill and Kintore Primary schools. This group will enable the staff to compare their performances and learn from each other. Representatives from the other two schools will be visiting Macduff Primary shortly.

The school has entered a partnership with Whitehills Primary school. Two pupils will evaluate the teaching and learning environment from the other school. The Pupil Council will create and questionnaire to establish 'How good is our school?'

The teachers have been asked to work out how best to give the pupils feedback. What works best? E.g., House points, a sticker, verbal communication, or a note home.

HJ has recently challenged the pupil's understanding of the restorative behavior policy, which was started last year. The main pillars of which are 'Trust', 'Relationship' and 'Kindness'. She has asked the pupils to consider how to improve the policy and get the message across. They are going to produce posters and a video to emphasise how it works.

Preparations are being made for the King's coronation. These will be decided upon once the council confirm what days are going to be official holidays.

HJ is hoping that members of the community will spend a few hours during the Coronation holiday, participating in some voluntary work. i.e., beach cleaning, visiting nursing homes or elderly neighbours. She'd like to set up a Google classroom link, where pupils can show how they gave something back to their community.

There is going to be a new outdoor learning space in the school grounds, based on the forest school approach. There will be an outdoor classroom. Children will, under supervision, have access to sticks, earth, fire, and the big construction toys.

CM suggested that PC members could read through the transitioning to P1 guidance book and provide feedback.

5. Matters arising (CM)

Both Councillors had to leave the meeting at this point.

CM asked HJ about the school crossing as on several occasions there has been no Lollipop person cover. HJ advised that the crossing is not the responsibility of the school, it is a council issue. There have been a couple of instances when HJ has put on a hi-vis jacket and helped the children cross. Motorists have not driven responsibly and there are strong concerns that children, parents, and staff are in danger.

CM has suggested that she contact the Council roads/planning department, the police, and the local Councillors to arrange a site visit. LC stated that because of where the children now exit the school, they must cross in front of the Nursery traffic to get to the Lollipop crossing.

JG suggested that the school could promote a one-way system upon exiting the nursery car park.

It was agreed by all that the Councillors should be encouraged to help with this issue.

SC updated the PC re the funding application for the Eco Committee. Although the last funding application was unsuccessful, Louise Chisholm and SC were applying to Tesco for funding. JG has agreed to help SC with an application to the Co-op community grants.

SC asked about the Green Car project 'Goblin' formerly assisted by Kevin Barrie and sponsored by TAQA. LC said that at Aberchirder school the pupils had loved taking part in the Green Car race in Alford. SC to approach Kevin Barrie on behalf of the school. HO remembers seeing the 'Goblin' in the assembly hall.

CM and JG wanted to discuss the issue of significant mud around the school grounds. Children are coming home filthy, and shoes are ruined. It is adding to the cost of household laundry.

HJ said that she was going to ask Lesley Simpson to investigate organised games that avoided the muddiest areas. It is thought that the tarmac area is too small. JG suggested that the school approach Landscape Services to ask for advice.

JG brought up the subject of water safety after an incident at Palmers Cove, where the Coastguard were involved with some Primary school aged children. HO suggested that the Education Officer could give a talk to the pupils. HJ said that the P4's were still accessing free swimming lessons, they just had to be transported to the pool in smaller groups.

6. News from Co-opted Members

HO was delighted with the Christmas assembly. He felt that the Thinking Day and Founder's Day services had gone very well.

The Youth Clubs that the Church runs are very well attended. With 40-60 children going to the Friday one.

The Cosy Café runs until the Easter holidays and will be reviewed after the summer. The children really enjoyed helping at the café. Members of the public who attended were impressed by the children and made to feel very welcome.

KC gave us news from the library. She has arranged to meet with Louise Chisolm about school classes, visiting the library during the summer term.

During the Easter Holidays, the library will offer a targeted programmed of activities. She was pleased to report that the library is getting busier.

To celebrate 40 years since the film 'Local Hero' was released, the local studies department have put together display on show in Macduff library.

SC asked about the creative writing group at the library. There is going to be one running over the easter holidays for children aged 8-12.

PC Zubaj was unable to attend this meeting, however he is keen to be kept informed of any issues and hopes to be available for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

16th May 7pm – Via Teams online

- **Informal meeting may also take place at The Cosy café prior to then.**