

Parsons Green Parent Council

Annual Report

June 2019



2018/19 has been another great year for the Parent Council supporting our pupils, teachers and the wider school community.

As in previous years we have been very active in fundraising and finding out where best to spend these funds.

Fundraising

Each year parents and carers are involved in a variety of fundraising events, some of the activities this year have included:

- Parent Council Christmas Fayre
- Hallowe'en Disco
- Christmas Cards
- Parent Quiz
- Sponsored Dance

and we are about to have our first Summer Fayre which is really exciting!
we hope to see you all there on **June 14th**

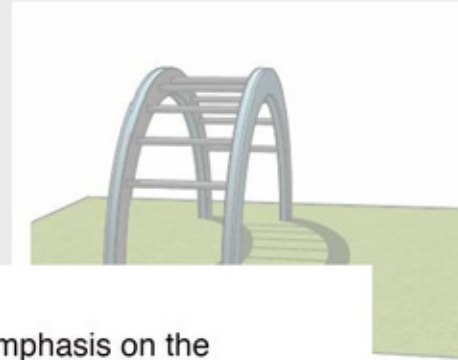
These events rely on involvement from our school community but wouldn't happen without individuals taking on certain roles & giving their time to make the events successful. I would like to extend a special thanks to all of those involved, particularly Jen & Craig McGuffie who for several years have made the Christmas Fayre a really wonderful day. This is our main fundraiser and we really appreciate all the time and thought they have put in.

Rachel King, Lorna Donnelly, Stevie McKinlay, Grant Packwood & Rhona Dick for yet another fun packed Hallowe'en disco.

Virve Phillips for organising the Christmas Card initiative, Virve has been an amazing asset to the Parent Council over the years, helping to raise an incredible amount of funds through a variety of ways and will be much missed after the summer.

A massive thank you to Joe & Gav Wilkinson for their amazing quiz and to Liz Creelie & Claire Gill for organising the evening and a huge thanks to Stevie McKinlay, Jannall Irving & Jenny for an energetic and highly enjoyable danceathon.

Health & Wellbeing



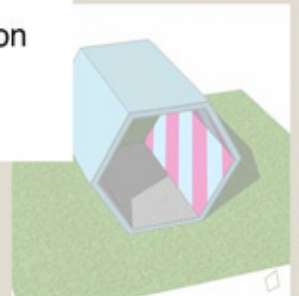
The Parent Council often has a theme for the year. In 2018/19 we have been looking at Health & Wellbeing with a particular emphasis on the playground, inspired by the Play & Move sub group.

The Parent Council were delighted to be donated some fantastic play equipment for the playground from the National Galleries. This was thanks to **Lee Haldane** - who we would like to say a massive thank you to. The slide, climbing frames and pods are unique, colourful and were free!

The team who picked up the equipment were testament to the community can-do spirit of the school. Particular thanks to Simon Turner, Stevie MckInlay and his friend Chris, Justine Fernandes Binns, Ed & Gillian MacArthur, Gillian's parents, Jessie Dahl & helpers for taking time off work, using their transport & getting up extremely early in order to make sure the school could benefit from this play equipment.

Justine has spent endless hours making the drawings & getting quotes from contractors to ensure that the procedure for installing the equipment is done correctly. We are very fortunate to have her involved in this process and are extremely grateful. Without her knowledge, time & expertise we wouldn't be able to proceed.

We have now reached the point of having the go ahead and hope to have installation during the holidays ready to be played on in the new school year. Thanks to all involved.



Raised funds have gone towards:

Forest School - this is currently benefitting the P3s, who are loving their outdoor learning sessions on the field opposite the School! This money will be used for equipment, tools, and waterproof clothes, and will be used for other children through the school also.

Gardening group - pupils have enjoyed protecting, growing and eating plants they have grown with the help of Ed & Gillian MacArthur - again a huge thank you for their time and passion. We hope to apply for funding to build on their input in the grounds and passing on knowledge to our young people.

Reading books

Welfare fund - to make sure that all children are able to take part in trips and have the resources they need. This is a top up for the Pupil Equity Funding that the School receives (on the basis of the number of children who receive free school meals), but which doesn't always cover all the things that those children might need.

Coach for nursery trip

Netball equipment - requested by Mrs Quinn who very kindly runs a brilliant weekly netball session before school

Running club kit - thank you to the group of helpers who continue to give up their Friday mornings to take this fantastic club

Other funds have been ringfenced for the installation of the play equipment and art work on the play pod

Pupils, teaching staff & parents can all put in a request for funding

This year two P7 pupils approached the PC to ask for funds to paint the play pod.

A Graffiti artist has been found to carry out their ideas and we are hoping that this will take place in the summer holidays ready for the new school year.

P7s presented a Photovoice project to the Parent Council, identifying certain areas in the playground where they would like improvement.



Since this project some of their ideas have been put in place, others being noted for the future.

Sustrans Grant

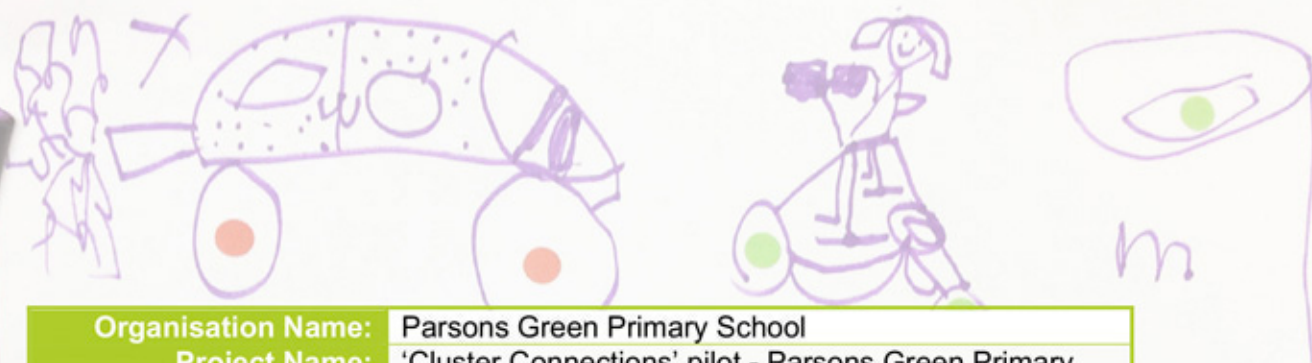
Massive thanks to **Kate Wimpess** for putting together a successful application with an extremely tight deadline for the first design phase of a Safe Routes to School grant.

Landscape Architects Here & Now worked with pupils across the school on ideas around safe roads in the school area. We have applied for the next phase of this process and have our fingers crossed that we are successful in securing funds to work with other schools in the area.

I will circulate the full pilot project papers once they've had the sign off from Sustrans.

This was another example of pupil, teacher and parent partnership and we are keen to find other grants & schemes which work in this way.

If successful in all stages of the Sustrans funding stream there could be possibilities for the childrens design ideas to be a reality.

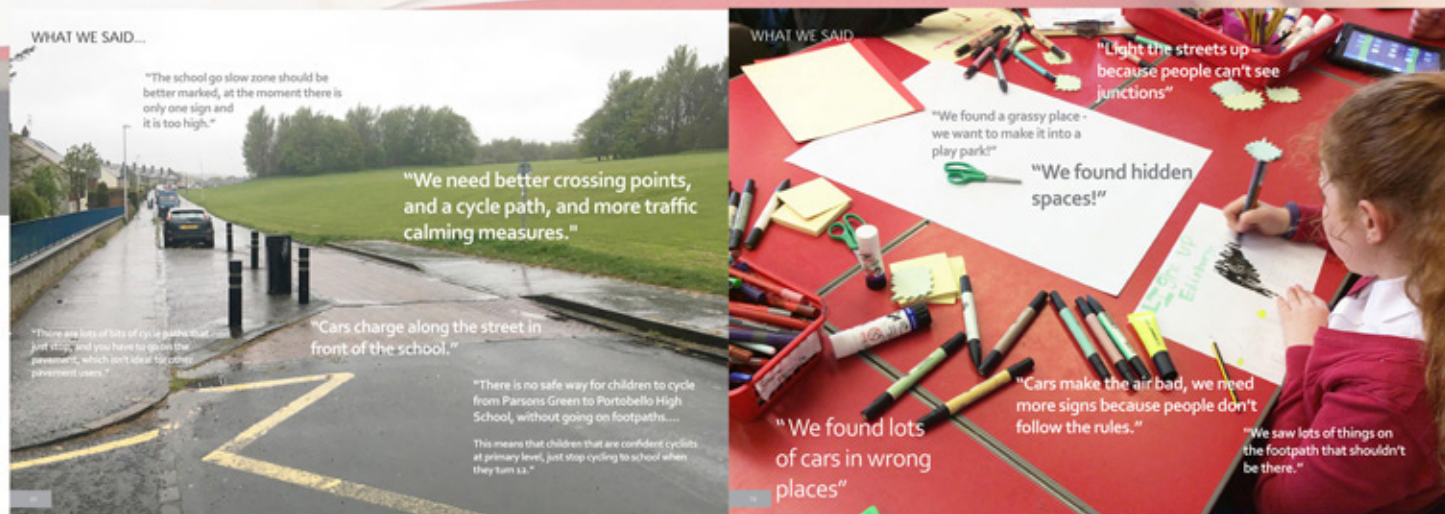


Organisation Name: Parsons Green Primary School

Project Name: 'Cluster Connections' pilot - Parsons Green Primary School

Describe your 2018/19 project:

To conduct a pilot engagement and baseline / co-design exercise in Parsons Green Primary School, to assess current barriers to active travel to and from school and other destinations within the catchment, and propose improvements to reduce those barriers. We aim to monitor and evaluate this pilot with a view to rolling it out at a later date to the five other schools that form the Portobello High School cluster.



Thank you

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Chair and would like to extend a huge thank you to my predecessor Liz Creelie for such a supportive and helpful handover and also for organising the upcoming Summer Fayre - a huge undertaking - we are so pleased that you are making this happen!

Thank you also to Amanda Taylor who has been invaluable as our secretary and Claire Gill for all the work she has done for the school over the years as treasurer.

We really appreciate the time and effort that this team has put into the Parent Council.

Our current PC consists of Carys Macdonald - treasurer, Emma Bartlett - secretary, Rachel King & Justine Fernandes Binns - vice chairs and myself Sam Rutherford as chair.

These key people have been fantastic in fulfilling their roles.

I would also like to thank all of our parents who volunteer in the school library including Katy Longstaff, Dawn Possee, Jane Manson, Louise Hume, and Josie Cruikshank. They continue to ensure that all of our children have the opportunity to explore the wide variety of books for use in school and at home.

Thank you to everyone for giving up their time once again.

The Parent Council have continued to support a range of after-school activities - new ideas are always welcome for after-school activities and we would be delighted to hear from anyone with a specific request or who is willing to be part of the activity planning. I would like to thank Rachel King and Vicki Webster for their continuing hard work with this.

One of the main themes that emerged from the p7 photography project was how important the outdoor spaces are at the school. A wide range of parents have worked very hard in order to maintain the open spaces throughout the year. We are delighted that Ed & Gillian MacArthur have volunteered to teach the children about growing and a big thank you to Angela Broom and Jane Manson who have continued to organise the tidy up sessions throughout the year.



Jessie Dahl has started a session to engage with parents 'between the bells' i.e. from 2.50 - 3.20pm. The PC were aware that we weren't really reaching many parents, in particular those in the lower school. Jessie suggested an informal, weekly time slot that parents and carers could express any thoughts or concerns. We have been very grateful for this, receiving lots of ideas - it has made a real difference and Jessie's lovely manner has enabled people to voice their opinions. Thank you Jessie.

A huge thanks also to Craig McGuffie for the football sessions that he is taking and Daisy the dog for all her help in the school.



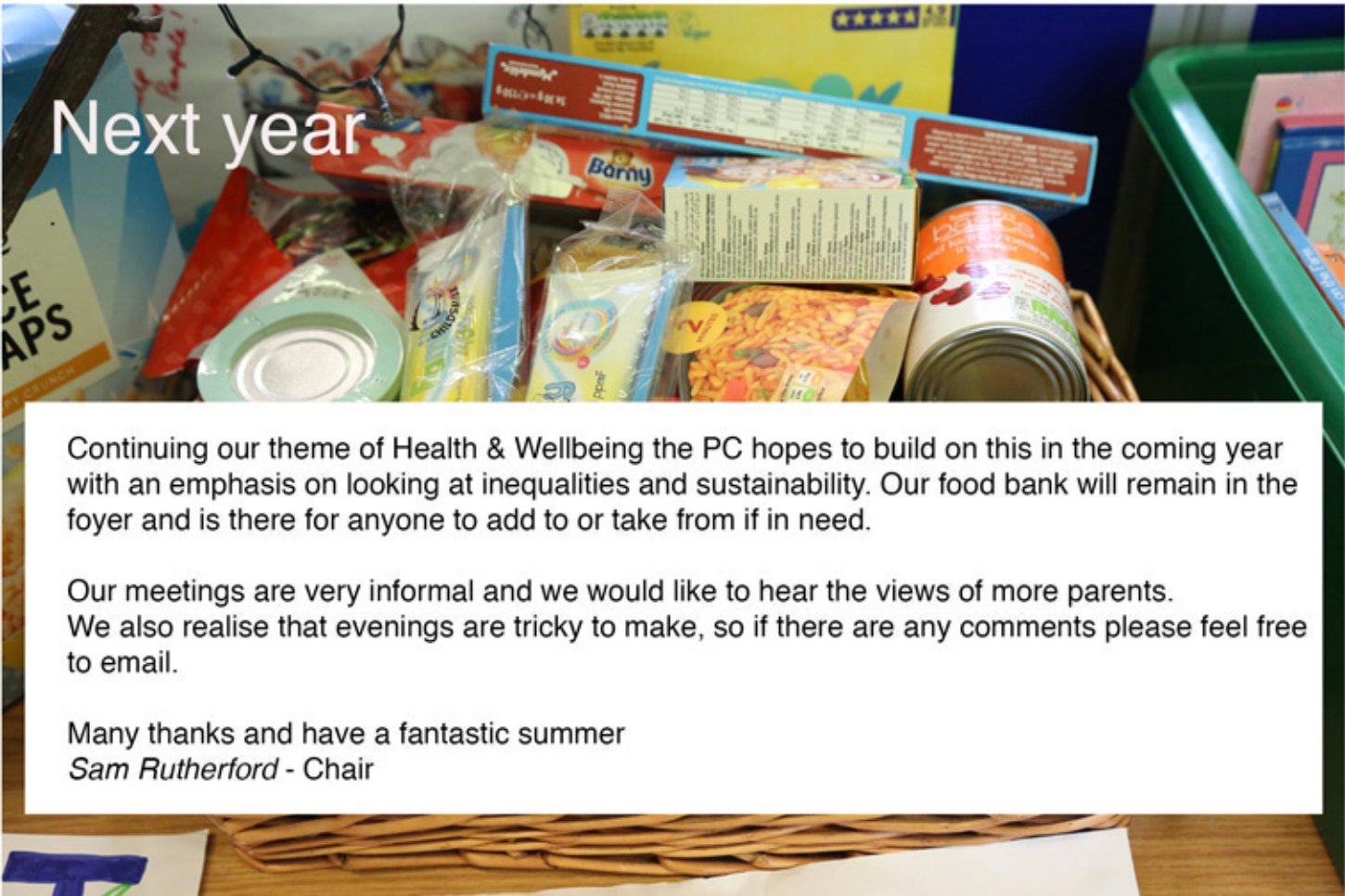
PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

(Help Yourselves!)

Claire Haggett has been constantly collecting, cleaning & topping up the Pre - Loved Uniform Racks. She has been doing an amazing job! All of the clothes are free to take and are for everyone. We really want to encourage recycling and feel this is a great way to make the best use of clothes that have been abandoned or are outgrown.

Claire has also set up a Benmore clothes box, so that children in p7 don't have to spend a lot for the trip and items that might not be used on other occasions can be reused.

The Thank you list is extremely long and I'm sure there will be lots of people I've missed. Parents & carers regularly help with reading too and share all sorts of skills with the school.



Next year

Continuing our theme of Health & Wellbeing the PC hopes to build on this in the coming year with an emphasis on looking at inequalities and sustainability. Our food bank will remain in the foyer and is there for anyone to add to or take from if in need.

Our meetings are very informal and we would like to hear the views of more parents. We also realise that evenings are tricky to make, so if there are any comments please feel free to email.

Many thanks and have a fantastic summer
Sam Rutherford - Chair