

Parsons Green Primary School

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 6th September 2022

Held online on via Teams



Present: Rachel King (PC Chair), Gillian Turner and Donna McGuire (vice-chairs), Claire Haggett (Secretary), Susan Cochrane (Head Teacher), Jennifer McGowan (Deputy Head Teacher), Nicky McDonald (P7 teacher), Hilary Roberts, Mengxing Ma, Grzegorz Wozny, Kaylee, Ateeq Ur Rehman (parents)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Rachel introduced herself as Chair, and gave a very warm welcome to those present. Everyone introduced themselves, and Rachel gave an overview of plan for the meeting. There were apologies from Simon Millar (Treasurer).

2. Outline of focus for the Parent Council for this year

The priorities for the PC – after discussions with parents and the School – are engagement with parents; getting parents back in the School; a focus on the cost of living crisis; and making sure that families feel supported. This meeting (and the PC meeting that take place at intervals through the year) are about bringing all of this work together and being the focus for this; but what really matters is parents feeling involved and engaged, and being able to help out throughout the year – such as the Halloween disco, parents helping with reading, library. The emphasis is on parents being able to be involved, and all of us getting the best outcomes for our children (this meeting not the main thing that we do!) Rachel made clear that the PC are always really keen to hear from parents about any other ways to get involved.

3. Update on winter fundraising activity

There is usually a Christmas Fayre – but – we are very aware of the cost-of-living crisis; and that parents aren't as aware of how to be involved with the School as they used to be. The PC are therefore suggesting that we don't have a Christmas Fayre this year. There were also practical problems in not getting anyone to step forward to be able to organise it.

There were a couple of other suggestions.

There is a (kind!) parent willing to organise a raffle; this would go towards funding the digital strategy, and supporting work in the grounds.

ACTION: Rachel and Gillian to work with this parent to organise the raffle

There is also a suggestion to put an option on ParentPay to donate to the PC; this has worked very well in the past two years, and raised a great deal of money for the PC's activities for the School.

ACTION: Mrs Cochrane to set this on ParentPay nearer to Christmas pleased

Parents have also suggested that they could donate a present into the School to be passed on to other children. This follows from a scheme from Portobello High School, who have provided an anonymous link for parents to be able to receive a food hamper or a small gift this Christmas. There was a discussion about whether families in need might come forward, and it was suggested that at least some parents would do this. Mrs Cochrane reported about how this has worked in the past, via the Salvation Army distributing gifts to local children. It was suggested that the message could go out to all parents via a text message, to ensure that it reached everyone who might be in need.

It was emphasised that anonymity was really vital in arranging to pass things on; Mrs Cochrane and Ms McGowan have a lot of experience in doing this, and very subtly. A drop off for presents at front of school has worked really well in the past.

There was agreement that the PC should support this; and recognition that some people might be embarrassed to come forward, but that Mrs Cochrane and Ms McGowan would also have information about other families who might be in need. It would be important that the message went out to everyone – that we supply free school uniform, that we provide support to people at Christmas, that we are here to help.

ACTION: Mrs Cochrane to put a message in the Newsletter about donating new toys; to arrange for a message to be sent to all parents.

4. Treasurer update

Current Balance: £7,790.60

Current liabilities:

- None

EXPENDITURE:

- None

INCOME:

- £628.60 received from Edinburgh Council
- £11.45 received from Mr I & Mrs LM HU Book Sale (this is from the Summer Fayre)
- £556.01 received from Hallowe'en Disco Takings

Summary of the current position of the Parent Council accounts:

CURRENT FUNDS				FUNDS AVAILABLE
Assets	Bank Balance on 22/11/22	£7,790.60		
	Monies banked after statement date	£0.00		

	Uncleared cheques	£0.00		
	Total	£	Liabilities Cumulative	Remaining Balance
Liabilities	Uncashed cheques		£0.00	£7,790.60
	Uncleared payments		£0.00	£7,790.60
			£0.00	£7,790.60
			£0.00	£7,790.60
	Less sinking fund	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£5,790.60
TOTAL LIABILITIES		£2,000.00		
	Balance available to spend			£5,790.60

FUNDING REQUESTS:

None atm.

There was a suggestion from Kaylee for better and more updated for the Library, and for specific books that have been requested the children. She has been extremely proactive about seeking donations of books from different charitable groups, and all the local bookshops (Portobello, and different branches of Waterstones, Blackwells, and Toppings).

It's great to hear that the children are back in the Library, and are keen to read and asking for books. Literacy is a great topic for the PC to support, and we could provide funds for books, as an annual part of the PC spending.

Some books have been donated from parents, but often these the same books that are already in the Library.

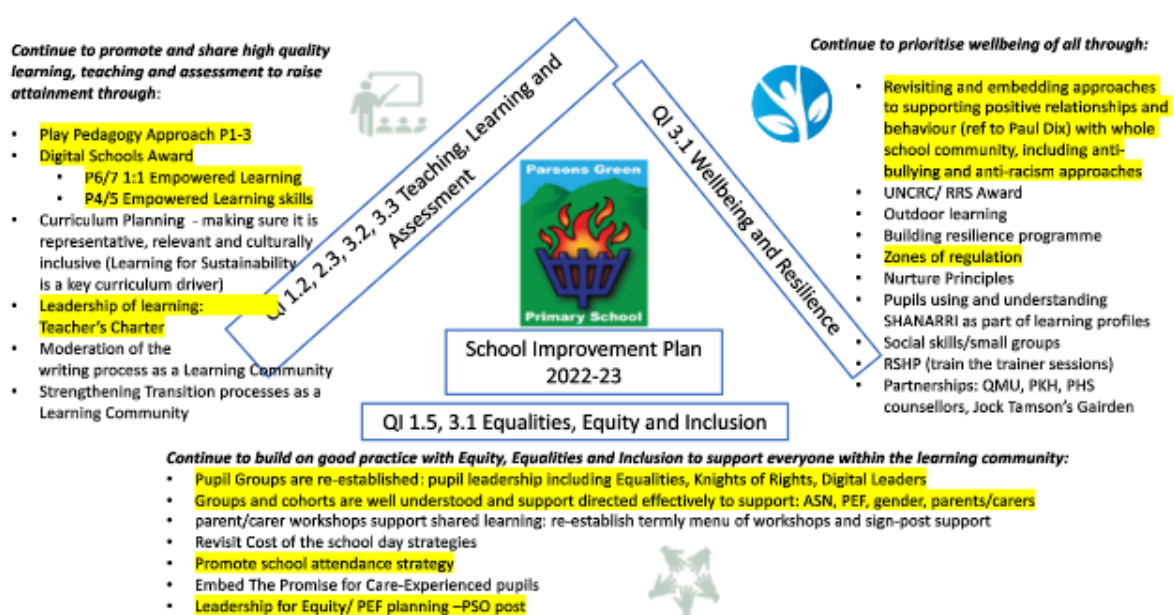
ACTION: Rachel will write a letter (from the PC Chair) to the Portobello Bookshop (who had thus far denied requests for books), and which ne

ACTION: Kaylee to put together a wishlist about the sorts of books that it would be helpful to have in the Library (she will collate this in conjunction with the teachers who come into the Library).

5. HT update

Mrs Cochrane's update is attached to these minutes.

Areas highlighted have had action points progressed



There has been particular progress in a number of areas.

The play approach in P1-3 has been going well, and has progressed into P2 and P3 more than ever. This is in conjunction with the City of Edinburgh Council, and lots of training and support, and visits to other schools, has been really helping to provide ideas on the 'role of the adult'. Staff are really enthusiastic about this approach, which is still evolving and being developed. There will be some changes coming in P1 about reporting to parents to make it even more meaningful and relevant.

Work on the Digital Schools Award has been ongoing in P6 and P7; this is thinking about what the high schools need in terms of skills, and helping to ensure a smoother transition for pupils in those classes. There is a class notebook on the iPad which each child now has. The Teachers are using new tools which are really engaging and helping to support and engage the children.

Zones of Regulation is another big piece of work, a programme from Social Thinking, and is about being consistent about the language being used (no emotions are necessarily bad or wrong, for example).

Leadership Groups have started again for P4-7, this has been a lot of work to set up, but will go forward, and the children are really pleased that they are getting the chance to be involved with things. There are 12 groups, who do a wide range of activities, from recycling to gender equalities to wellbeing to road safety.

Mrs Gibb – one of the PSAs – has taken on an extra role as part Promoting School Attendance Strategy of the has been building positive relationships with School.

Parsy Reps are working on ways to celebrate successes across the school.

Adults are needed to come and help in the Gardening and Wildlife Groups – volunteers would be hugely appreciated.



- Zones describe how your brain and body feel
- **Blue Zone** – Body running slow, such as when tired, sick, sad, or bored
- **Green Zone** – Like a green light , “Good to Go!”
- **Yellow Zone** – Proceed with Caution & Slow Down!
- **Red Zone** – Extreme Emotions! out of control, trouble making good decisions, and must STOP

Partnership work throughout the School has been ongoing (and increasing):

Partnerships and Supports to support wellbeing

- PHS School Counsellor
- People Know How
- School Nursing team (LIAM sessions)
- Let’s Talk
- Play Therapists (With Kids)
- Art Therapy (student from QMU)
- Nurture Group Sessions (school staff)
- Forest Schools (school staff –half day P4, now P5/4 class, blocks of time)
- ASL Service
- Abercorn Tennis
- Harlequins Rugby –P7

Coming Up.....

- Visits to museum, church, mosque, Dynamic Earth.....
- Inter-Faith Workshop for P4-7
- P6 ceilidh!

Christmas plans:

- Lunch on Wed 7th Dec
- Class parties – further info to come, (please don't buy special outfits, encouraging a Christmas jumper or some tinsel and likely to have an outdoor part of the party in P1-3)
- Nativity P1-3: Thurs 15th 6pm and Fri 16th 9.30am performances to grown-ups – 1 ticket will be issued for each, you can swap with each other to have 2 people for a performance but must have a ticket. Limited due to hall space.
- Carols with P4-7 at Willowbrae Church
- Christmas Assembly
- Christmas Film Club/Pyjama Party



Presents for teachers are really not needed – a card with nice words or which the child has made are appreciated and more than enough.

6. Ask for volunteers: grounds group, second signatory, fundraising group

Rachel reiterated the call for volunteers; this is the meeting where everything comes together, but we need parents being able to volunteer throughout the year. It's been so hard for parents to get involved, and many parents have very little idea about the School; so we are very keen to encourage parents (especially in the lower years) to be able to engage in the School.

There is the PC meeting on Friday morning, which hopefully will encourage parents to come along (perhaps parents who have come along for drop off)

We need another signatory for the PC bank account; and for a fundraising sub-group; and for any lunchtime groups – so we are very keen for any parents to come forward.

Kaylee said that Library is on a Monday and a Wednesday; and suggested that children could come into the Library for quiet time at break times on Wednesdays.

The PSAs are going to start a rota for playing with puzzles in the ICT suite at lunchtime for children to come in.

7. Date of next meeting: 6th February 2023

8. Any other business: None raised