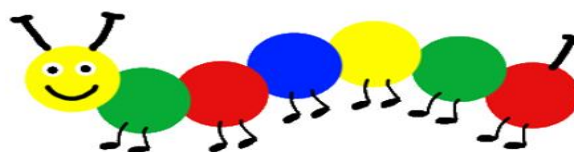


Meeting – Thursday 21st September

Parent Council



Board members

Lynne Brown - Chair | Lynne Lawrie - Chair |

John Dagger – School Representative

Carolyn Findlay – School Representative

Melissa Allum - Treasurer

Karen Riley – Secretary

Sarah Beck – Fundraising Lead

Time	Item	Owner
	Welcome	Lynn L
	Introductions around the room	
	Apologies: Lynne B, Karen R and Sarah B	
	Head teacher update.	John D
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recent events:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ P1 coffee morning➤ Rest of school – meet the teacher sessions➤ P1 curriculum talk➤ Monthly newsletter available on school app➤ Whole school assemblies➤ Online STEM challenge➤ Blocks for ELC➤ Silver rated for sport➤ Drumming for excellence➤ P4 – Outdoor learning➤ Fiona Lumbers – author visit (also bought books for the school)	

Time	Item	Owner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House captains have been voted for – Mr Dagger meeting with them to discuss how can be involved in school. Captains will be confirmed to school in due course. Website to be updated and will include school improvement plan. This includes a section on teaching and assessment and a section on relationships/wellbeing. Launching Midlothian reading framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reviewing spelling across the school ➤ Parents to be more involved in learning – reading and numeracy ➤ ‘Bring your adult to school’ sessions being considered ➤ Currently Bronze accredited for reading and aiming for Silver Recognising bullying scheme Circle, Up, Up and Away – pupils’ voices Mr Dagger to provide a termly report on how the school is doing 	
18.45	Love our Playground dates/plans	Lynne L/All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The garden near the car-park is to be updated Volunteers to help tidy up the garden and to work with the school on its best use Ideas include: allotments, Japanese style garden Mr Dagger highlighted risk of spending £1000s but if not able to upkeep could be wasted so need to consider how will be maintained. Dining room outside area to also be considered – make into a quiet zen zone. Sunday 29th October – first advertised date for volunteers to work on garden near car-park Suggestion that afterschool could be a better time for more people to attend as no need to return to school. Amy & Anna to consider dates and confirm with Lynne and Lynne before advertising on Facebook pages. School needs a team to look after the garden and maintain it. 	

Time	Item	Owner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Bonnyrigg Weed Busters group could be contacted (a member is a grandparent of a child at the school). ➤ Spread the word that volunteers who have gardening experience e.g. local Facebook pages ➤ Could create better links with the local community ➤ Could be a shared resource with other schools ➤ Lynne L to contact other parent committees with this suggestion 	
19:00	School crossing update	Lynne L/All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherwood Crescent crossing is to be updated as currently very dangerous: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Council have sent the plan and another two streets' crossings are included. ➤ Confirmed that this will be done this financial year ➤ All agreed this is good news 	
19.10	Chair meeting update/Gail Currie/Connect	Lynne L
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynne attended meeting with all parent committee chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two key areas that will be focused on over the next 4 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1. Raising attainment – positive destinations after school ➤ 2. All learners to feel valid and included • Mr Dagger confirmed that the Bonnyrigg school improvement plan is based on the following 4 areas (in line with the Midlothian wide plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raising attainment ➤ Right to respect ➤ Digital empowerment ➤ Leadership that supports • Gail Currie is our parent liaison officer who has been involved in previous parent council meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider ideas of how she can be more involved ➤ Add her contact details to the school website • Connect – this is an online schools resource available for all 	

Time	Item	Owner
19:15	Dress down Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy has suggested that this is a non-mandatory fundraising ask, so that parents who want to donate to the school can each month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussed if this would be best to do via cash or ParentPay or both. ➤ Agreed that ParentPay is best due to the issues of handling cash. ➤ Parents could also pay once for the whole year. ➤ Money can go towards school and potentially other charities. Amy would also like to see more representatives from EL as part of the parent council – could be advertised on the school website/Facebook page/school app. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Dagger agreed to add to his newsletter in order to raise profile of parent council generally ➤ Lynne confirmed that the summary of the Parent Council achievements was added to the P1 pack, so this could be included in EL welcome pack. ➤ A QR code could be added to the leaflet/update that links to ParentPay for fundraising. ➤ EL could have a ‘dress-up’ day in place of ‘dress down’. 	Amy G
19:20	Clarification on communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be clarity that Facebook pages are not run by the school and are therefore not the main source of info. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parents need to use the school app for information. ➤ Agreed that a message should be sent out on the FB pages to confirm this – Action completed Suggestion that PE days should be included on the app diary or add them to the key info pages so can be easily referred to. Mr Dagger confirmed that his first monthly newsletter had good readership and can see parents read in depth Mrs Findlay suggested that the P7s could hold a session to show parents how to use the app. Mr Dagger confirmed emails are kept to a minimum, with just details for a specific group provided this way. 	All

Time	Item	Owner
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- P1s are having their photo taken for the Advertiser at the end of the week – this wasn't communicated to all parents.
 - **Agreed this will be added to the school app/Facebook pages. – Action completed**

19:25	Playground improvement	Anna D
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- Anna suggested that a pergola could be built by her builder near the P1 classrooms.
 - Lynne L stated that unfortunately due to health and safety legislations there needs to be permission from the council and any building has to be by someone employed by the council.
 - Anna suggested that a swing is added to the large trees within the grassy area of school grounds.
 - Mr Dagger confirmed due to health and safety this wouldn't be possible.
 - Anna asked if some areas of shade could be added through planting of bushes/trees along the school perimeter.
 - Lynne L confirmed that there have been long-term plans for improving the playground but unfortunately due to lack of resources these haven't been progressed.
 - Mrs Findlay confirmed that there is a 'play sufficiency evaluation' in place for local community to feedback on how green spaces are being used, to be completed by end of October.
 - Unfortunately no comments are possible so may be more of a 'tick-box' exercise.
 - Loose parts – could be used for shade – need to find keys to shed!
 - Mrs Findlay confirmed that the loose parts had to be locked away overnight due to issues with them being used out of hours and disturbing the neighbours.
 - Mr Dagger confirmed that the costs for equipment is relatively cheap but it is the groundwork that costs a lot.
 - Parking also an issue
 - Could the staff carpark be locked? Mr Dagger confirmed not as it needs to be open for afterhours drop offs/pick ups.
 - Message has gone out to parents re the parking areas.
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Time	Item	Owner
19:30	<p>Treasurers report – more info available on Treasurer’s Report August ’22 – Sept ’23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa confirmed the costs from last year (22/23) were covered by income from the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christmas Fair ➤ Christmas Raffle ➤ Sports Day teas and coffees • This paid for the materials needed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christmas Fairs prep for ’22 and ’23 ➤ Panto for the school ➤ P7 camp ➤ P1 book bags ➤ Music stands/Coronation ice creams ➤ Julie Purdie leaving gift ➤ Replacement de-fib pads • Projector/screen/speaker – these were paid for by David Virgo donation • So far for this school year funds have paid for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ P7 book vouchers (for those who couldn’t attend camp) ➤ 2023 Christmas Fair ➤ Playground equipment ➤ Panto ➤ Sign for P1 starters 	
19.35	<p>Fundraising update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Disco is booked for Monday 30th October. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DJ hasn’t been booked and is now unavailable so looking for a replacement - Update – DJ has now been booked. ➤ Need to confirm how best for parents to pay – cash or ParentPay – cash is looking most likely due to admin issues. • Christmas Fair is booked for 1st December – looking for volunteers to sign up and this will be sent out to parents next week. • Mr Dagger to meet with Sarah next week and a Fundraising meeting will be held to gather more ideas. • All fundraising is given to the school and is supplemented with money from school funds for specific items within a set time period. • The funding needs to be fair so that all of the school benefit. 	Lynne L/Sarah B
19:40	AOB	

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- P7 hoodies – these will be ordered so that they can be worn as soon as possible.
 - P7s want to choose their own colours – Mrs Findley confirmed this is fine but can only be worn on dress down days and at the end of term.
 - For next year suggestion is that they are all navy blue and P7s can wear throughout the year.
 - Next meeting = Thursday 26th October, with hybrid online/F2F meeting
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