

## **Parent Council meeting**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Attendees** – Suzie Grant, Dawn Cheung, Cara Steele, Nicola McKee, Diane Brown, Alexis Shand, Vicki Wright, Lea Sime, Angela Fletcher, Katie Quinn, Marilyn McRobb, Aileen King, Louise Duncan, Jackie Mellon, Wendy Townsend

**Apologies** – Julie Brown

### **Welcome**

Introductions were made around the table

### **Review of Minutes**

Accepted. No matters arising.

### **Head teacher report**

Jackie thanked the Parent Council for the funding at the end of the last academic year which funded a fun week of activities in June. Feedback from school was that it was filled with good experiences for all of the children who were able to enjoy a bouncy assault course, a magician and sports taster sessions in a very inclusive way.

Jackie noted that it has been a very settled return to school. She commented that the P1s settled in particularly well and gave credit to nursery for the foundation they had provided the children.

Uniforms – The new uniform has now been launched and there have been lots of comments and compliments on how smart everyone is looking.

### **New Staff**

Lewis Scalan NQT working in Primary 4/5 (supported by Steph Martin)

Chloe Neville – NQT last year in another Midlothian school and is working this year with Wendy Townsend on interventions and the school's post COVID recovery strategy

High School teacher – P7 with RB. Transferring from secondary to primary

3 new Learning Assistants due to start, hopefully before the October holidays – funding from Pupil Equity Funding. The PEF funding is being used primarily this year on staffing and implementing the new literacy programme.

Read Write Inc – this is the new the current focus is on classes working together, P2/3 and P4/5. P1&2 are due to start soon and P6/7 will take part in another element of the programme called Fresh Start.

Hawthornden have had a visit from Dianne Alexander, Midlothian Councillor – Councillor Alexander came to see the sensory room (having donated money to its creation). Councillor Alexander has said she is now keen to support other schools in creating similar resources.

Jackie covered the [Standards and Quality Report and school improvement plan](#) which can be found on the school webpage.

## **Agenda for the Year**

The Parent Council has curtailed its activities for the past couple of years. In part this was due to COVID but also due to limited Parent Council membership meant there were limited volunteers to pull off fundraising activities. As a result, the main events were the annual duck race and the always successful, Christmas hamper raffle.

There was some discussion about what we would like to do for the year and there was some enthusiasm for resurrecting discos and fayres. Events were agreed:

Halloween Disco

Christmas Fayre

Duck Race – 2023 date to be agreed, likely spring term

*Post meeting note – lets have now been agreed for a Hallow'een disco and Christmas fayre.*

Halloween disco will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Jackie has agreed to pursue the let needed to open the school in the evening. Snacks to be sourced (Vicki to approach local Tesco). Disco to be arranged (Angela F to ask a DJ she knows)

Christmas fayre will be held after school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. There was discussion about potentially including an online Christmas market which will be discussed at a later date.

Christmas Fayre planning meeting will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October (invite to follow)

Generic letter to be written which people can use with their contacts to request raffle/fayre donations (Louise to write and circulate)

## **Treasury report**

There is currently £2829 in the bank with £900 to be paid to the school for the summer activities, £500 to be paid to the school for bike helmets and a further £500 committed to spend on a boot rack. This leaves a balance of around £900 remaining.

## **School requests for funds**

Wendy gave her thanks for funding at the end of last year, was really well received and enjoyed by all. Wendy explained that school are hoping to repeat the experience next year. Would request something in the region of £1000. Donation provisionally agreed and will be a focus for fundraising activities.

## **AGM**

**Chair** – Aileen (proposed – Lea) (second – Angela F)

**Vice** – Lea (proposed – Marilyn) (seconded – Louise)

**Secretary** – Louise (Proposed – Aileen) (second – Marilyn)

**Treasurer** – Vicki (proposed – Louise) (second - Aileen)

## **Any Other Business**

### **Charity registration**

It was agreed that we would consider registering the Parent Council as a charity. Vicki agreed to look into it further.

### **Clothing swap**

In a bid to reduce waste and strain on parent funds, it was agreed that we will try to set up a swap station for Halloween outfits before the disco, and the same for Christmas jumpers before December.

### **school football team**

A school football team has been recently and parents involved with this asked the Parent Council if anyone had contacts who might be willing to make a donation to setting up the team/sponsoring equipment.

### **Parent Council dates**

Halloween costume swap shop – date TBC (early October – letter )

Christmas Fayre Planning Meeting (Zoom) – Wednesday 26/10/2022

Halloween Disco – Thursday 3/11/2022 (5.30 – 6.30/ 6.45 – 7.45)

Christmas jumper swap shop – Date TBC (mid to late November)

Fayre prep (in school) – Friday 25/11/2022 (straight after school)

Fayre prep mop up (in school) – Monday 28/11/2022 (during school hours)

Christmas Fayre – Friday 02/12/2022 (straight after school)

Christmas jumper swap shop – Date TBC