



St. John the Baptist Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

28 March 2022

Present	Catherine Houston Margaret Clark Carolanne McNulty Anne McCluskey Mhairi Devitt John Devitt Marie Beacom Martin Kane Fiona Vornick Craig Wilson Councillor McGuigan Carrie Queen Councillor McCreary Kelly Weir Kevin Smith	
Apologies	Councillor Devlin, Caroline Kane, Jennifer McKerral, Laura Layden, Caroline Cushley	
Minutes		
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
2.	Head Teacher's Report/Update	
	<p>Covid Update – last week was highest level of staff absence with 9 staff members off between the nursery and primary. Some supply staff were brought in which ran smoothly and we were still able to maintain the numbers of staff ratio to children both in the school and the nursery. This did prove very challenging. This week two staff were absent and as of today 19 kids positive, 1 isolating and 1 waiting on a PCR result. Sometimes this can be the one family with more kids in different classes so looks worse than it is. From 18 April no letters will be sent out as guided by Jason Leach. We are constantly reminding kids to wash their hands and have ordered electronic hand sanitisers for outside each class.</p> <p>Nursery Updated– SLC have arranged for each nursery to receive an outdoor building for the children to play in. A new fence has been installed and part of the original fence is to be moved so that the nursery garden will be extended at a small cost to the playground.</p> <p>Book Fair – this raised £3,278.30 our commission was £1806.98. This money will be used to purchase P7 class novels and books to enhance</p>	

the nursery and school library books. This is a great fundraiser for the school and nursery.

Sacramental Update – Confirmation for Primary 7 took place on Wednesday 23 February. The Bishop commented on how well the children behaved. Primary 3's First Reconciliation Prayer Service was on 17 March. This was recorded and edited by Mrs Divers and uploaded to Google Classroom so that families can share in this celebration. The First Holy Communion will take place on 14 May and parents already know which mass they are going to and we have managed to give all parents the mass they wanted. Father Ivan is working really hard at building relationships with the kids. He comes in on a Friday but sometimes twice a week to see the children.

Fair Trade Status – it was the last session that the school gained the Fair Trade Status but we decided to wait until this year to celebrate. Mrs Pitcathely is our Fair Trade Coordinator and covers the work involved in this award at the assembly so the children are aware of this. Every child received fair trade Maltesers and we got our certificate.

Tennis and Rugby Taster Sessions – Taster sessions have been organised for tennis for P1 to P4 and rugby for P5 to P7. This gives the children a taster of what these clubs are like and also gives them the opportunity to attend them out with school.

P7 Transition – On Friday 25 March all Primary 7 went to Holy Cross High School for a Team Building Day. The children were very excited about their first transition visit. They all came back and had a great day as this was the first time they had been put with the school and visited a high school building. There is a Google Meet this week with the staff of Holy Cross and virtual lessons on line which they are taking part in. John Reilly the Head Teacher will visit the school in the near future and two formal Transition Days have been organised for 9 and 10 June. Mrs Clarke has spent a lot of time ensuring that the children have at least one friend of their choice in the class and by the transition visit the children should know what classes they are in. There is a two day trip booked to Wiston Lodge in Biggar. The bus will leave at 8am and come back at 5pm on both days. We are planning a Leavers Celebration for Primary 7 as there are no major restrictions in place this year. Last year it was all outdoors which is one option we could repeat this year or may be try for the disco – the children will be consulted to decide. Hoodies are being ordered. The residential trip for P7 next year has been booked for Barcaple and the P6 will be told this year to allow maximum time for parents to pay. Parents have been asked to contact the school if there are any issues with payment.

Nursery P1 Transition – We are in the process of organising the Primary 1 transition programme using the new guidelines. Carolanne will email all catchment P1 parents and welcome them to the school. The children and one parent will be given a tour of the school from the School Captains and Vice Captains and the chance to speak to staff. The second visit will involve the parents speaking to Mrs Beacom and the children going to a classroom to experience a taster session of what Primary 1 will be like.

Virtual Parents Night – SLC have suggested schools feedback to parents virtually and have purchased a platform to do this called School

	<p>Cloud. Other schools, particularly secondary schools, have used this very successfully. Carol Anne has spent a great deal of time organising this as we are experiencing issues with our wifi. Both her and Chris Combe are liaising with RM Staff, our IT managers, to solve this access problem. We are hopeful that the system will work on the night, however, if there are any issues then class teachers will call parents on the mobile number provided in the annual data check.</p> <p>A series of letters have been sent out to parents with all details on how to book and log on.</p> <p>Outdoor Visits – This will be Wilton Lodge for P7 and Barcaple for the P6 next year.</p> <p>Woodlands Trust Tree Planting – Agnes Cooke in the nursery applied to the Woodlands Trust for a grant and we have been awarded 150 trees. Craig Wilson, a P4 parent and horticultural designer, has worked closely with the nursery and school and produced a detailed plan to where each type of tree would be best planted in order to give them the maximum opportunity to thrive. Marie asked that it be noted in the minutes that we are very grateful for Craig’s expert advice and time taken to plan. Every child in the nursery and from P2-6 were involved in planting a tree.</p> <p>It was nice for the children to remember where they planted their tree for when they are older and can tell other family members etc. Craig commented on how well the children were and how great they did during the planting time.</p> <p>Primary 1 Teddy Bear Picnic- The Primary 1 children enjoyed their Teddy Bear’s Picnic which provided a valuable opportunity for them to re-connect with their Primary 7 buddies.</p>	
3.	Finance Report	
	<p>No changes to the finances.</p> <p>£248.53 has been received through Easy Fundraising so the cheques have been past to Kelly for banking</p>	
4.	Fundraising – Sponsored Walk	
	<p>Sponsored walk – Martin and Craig met at the school and walked the route which was in place previously. It is best to stick with the plan previously in place and just put the letters up to be made into a word. The north and south route will remain as it was previously. This will be organised on 7 and 8 May. This will be advertised on facebook page and leaflets sent out. There will be a prize draw for 1, 2 and 3 place.</p> <p>The Parent Council will cover the cost of additional soil and tubs for the trees etc.</p> <p>Parent council will cover the cost of the P7s ties.</p>	
6.	AOCB	
7.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Monday 9 May 2022 at 7.00 pm	

