

Parent Council Meeting

8th November 2022

Next Meeting Date

6:30pm on **19th January 2023** in school

Contact

simpsonparentcouncil@gmail.com

Attendees

Core Committee

Sam Skinner
Lisa Black
Claire Furnaghan

Staff

Alison McDermott
Miss Clarke
Mrs Baird
Mrs Fawkes
Ms Plenderleith

Year Group Reps

Cat McCartney
Debbie McComb
Fiona Bryon
Nicola Gillian
Jen Dunne
Lianne Docherty
Lynne Buckner
Marion Pirrie
Victoria Nairn

Councillors

Pauline Stafford
Harry Cartmill

Parents

Cora Smith
Jennifer Allan
Ruth Harley

Apologies

Monique Lowe
Isla Bowden

Updates

- **Staffing**
 - The school have unfortunately been experiencing a high level of staff absences, there has been improved access to supply teachers this school year thanks to the council
 - Recruitment is underway for two permanent class teachers (received 56 applications!), as well as pupil support worker and nursery nurse posts
- **Lunch times** clarification, since things have changed a little post-covid:
 - Children get 45 minutes, which includes eating and playing.
 - Some classes play before eating, whilst some eat straight away
 - If you feel your child is not eating enough, reach out to the school and the staff can monitor your child.
 - There is a board in the hall that says when the year group may leave the lunch hall to play (minimum 15 mins to eat before going out to play) - but children are always welcome to stay as long as they want in the lunch hall.
 - No children are ever rushed out of the hall.
- **SeeSaw**
 - Is meant to be a one way communication tool for teachers to share updates to parents
 - Parents are struggling when having more than one child using SeeSaw, parents are having to log out and log back in to access different profiles.
- **Communication**
 - Currently email, group call, SeeSaw/Teams and the new school app are being used to communicate with parents. This will reduce to the School App for general communications and SeeSaw/Teams for class information/homework once all parents are using the School App.
 - For parents to communicate with teachers, **email is preferred**. This stops teachers receiving work notifications out-with their working day, allows the school to monitor frequently asked questions and helps to reduce the risk of overloading teachers.

- **Fundraising events**
 - The Halloween Disco raised £507. Thank you to all who supported us on the night!
 - The Halloween Trail was a great success. Money is still to be totalled.
 - Upcoming other things: Calendars, Christmas Cards, Tea Towels, Christmas Fayre
- **Finances**
 - The Credit Union scheme is being looked into as a way to help parents manage money across the various fundraising events and costs of school activities
 - We're looking into sourcing money out-with the parent forum through community sponsorship for things such as leavers hoodies, year books and school trips.
 - PVGs are going to be offered to some parent helpers in the coming months
- **Christmas Fayre** will be on Saturday 3rd December, 10:30-1pm. The organisers would like everyone to be able to join to celebrate the first in-person Christmas fayre post Covid, so have made the decision to make the event free entry to support the reduction in pressure on parental finances, and will share costs of activities in advance so parents know what to expect on the day.
- The school welcomes **used books** - though politely ask that the books are recent so as not to potentially include dated gender and racial stereotypes.

Action Items

- **Ms Baird**
 - Update parents about new attendance policy
 - Update parents and children about new lunch schedule
 - Update P1 transition information regarding the lunch schedule
 - Update nursery about flu vaccination date
 - Confirm P1 nativity days (contradicting dates have been provided)
 - Check if SeeSaw can be changed to stop parents needing to log in and out for different children
- **Everyone!**
 - Please **share any community opportunities** that you are aware of for the children. We've recently been made aware of the Sky Up Academy program, and the Young STEM Leader Programme - it's great if we can be aware of as many things as possible to encourage greater opportunities for the school.
 - **Future meetings** - how can we make the most of these? What would you like from the meetings? We like the idea of it being more of a discussion forum. We're open to all suggestions and want to make sure they're as valuable and useful as possible. Please email with any thoughts and ideas. We want everyone to feel heard! We're planning a hybrid of online and in person meetings to try and accommodate as many people as possible.
 - Would a parent council **social event(s)** be useful? We're open to any thoughts, opinions and how we can do this best to bring the parent community together in a more social and less formal sense. Ideas floated so far are casual evening events, and casual coffee mornings before or after assemblies whilst parents are at school anyway
 - We'd love to **recruit males** to be more involved in the school events!
 - Email us about any ideas or thoughts for anything and everything!!
simpsonparentcouncil@gmail.com
- **Core Committee** - Send Harry Cartmill email about helping at the Christmas Fayre
- **Pauline Stafford** - Look into communication about future road closures as and when they happen and how to let the school know in advance
- **Marion Pirrie** - Reach out to businesses and the local community for funding opportunities