

Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 24 November 2021

Attendees	Initials	Position	Apologies
Alison Hagan	AH	Chair	Julie Tait
Katie Wotherspoon	KFW	Secretary	Donna Cameron
	KBD	Treasurer	Kasia Banaszewska-Diaz
Lynda Colthard	LC		
Johanna Jenkins	JJK		
Jonathan Davidson	JD		
Lizzie Miller	LM		
Kerry MacKay	KM		
Morag MacLachlan	MM		
Kat Forbes	KF		
Lauren Cockburn	LC		
Mrs Westacott	KW	Head Teacher	
Miss Marshall	JM	Teacher	

AP –

WELCOME

Alison welcomed everyone

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- let KW know what we can afford to fund in terms of play equipment so that KW can work with children on what to get within that budget. AH/KFW/KB
- Find out what St Joseph's have done in relation to active schools – **On going**
- Attend November Parental Engagement meeting for children with ASN - **Postponed**
- Words to put out in note about informal network for parents of children with ASN and coffee morning - **Done**
- Add note in newsletter about the change to Disability Living Allowance – **Still to do**
- Let PC know what help is needed with Christmas Parties – **Still to do**
- Keep PC posted on possibility of a school choir - **On going**
- Let us know the dimensions of the space for lost property for IKEA - **Done**
- Put allergies rep on agenda for next meeting – **See discussion below**
- Think about how children's Christmas cards might be done -
- PC to come up with form of words for Facebook and make parents aware of arrangements for Christmas presents – **Will use the wording from school newsletter for this**

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Events – Thank you for organising this and thank you for buying the treats for the children for different celebrations

Health & Wellbeing – Not much changed regarding restrictions although they no longer have to send children home if a teacher is off sick, they can combine classes.

Events in school – Great book week and anti-bullying week. Thank you to Miss Marshal and Mr O'Connor for organising all that. Catholic education week starts on St Margaret's day and ends on St Andrew's day.

Christmas Parties – These will be the last week of term. They can't mix the classes for this so they will be in their own classes for it. They will have a tree in the dining room and a crib in the superhero room.

Foodbank – Would like to do something for this. Does anyone have a local contact for that? **AP – JJK will find one.**

Attendance – There is a massive problem across the UK with attendance since lock down ended. If you are sick you should stay off but there shouldn't be sustained or regular absences if your child is not unwell. Mr O'Connor has been working two mornings a week with a PSO who the school have been allocated to help get children back to school.

Behavioural Regulation – Important to make sure, particularly at exciting times like the festive period, to help all children manage and regulate their emotions.

Funding Requests – One for outdoor equipment from the Pupil Council and one for support with outdoor learning.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PARENT BODY

Is there an update on when the after school club will open? – There is no news yet but they are now allowing new lets so we are just waiting for our request to be processed.

Twice the newsletter has been inaccessible via the sway link please can this be checked beforehand? – Not sure what happened but Miss Smith is looking into it.

Please can issues about the bus on the day be sent via text rather than email – eg the accident causing traffic delays and this was after the road closure also coming via email – Yes, will make sure that this happens.

Reporting on the newsletter in one breath don't come to school with COVID symptoms then attendance is important in the next is infuriating as a parent- please could this be thought about before putting them in the newsletter together? This really makes parents feel infuriated and judged that they can't do anything correctly when it comes to sending their child to school- it is very ineffective communication. – See note in Head Teachers Report

When will we hear about the working groups on restorative justice? – It is just taking time to find timings that work for everyone. There will be more out about this soon to those that were interested.

Is there a problem with the school phone lines? – Not that they know of at the moment but will look into it.

CHURCH REP UPDATE

We met with Fr Deeley to discuss a number of things.

- Sacraments – Do they have to be made in your local parish – if you want to do them somewhere else other than your Parish, you have to get your Parish Priests permission. Confirmation this year will be back at St Kentergens. Fr will try and give a bit more notice of sacrament dates this year. He will see if the day for the preparation lessons can be changed to a Sunday, he is going to look into that.
- Preparation is done via church classes but backed up by teaching at school and home
- Church children's choir – Fr is happy with this idea but is looking in to whether there is someone who could help run this.
- Can we have 50 children come to mass at church if they are allowed assemblies. The Council will not allow this. They will only allow classes to come together for 'essential' reasons. A number of the parents council have questioned the Council's definition of 'essential' as for Catholics and in a Catholic school going to mass on holy days of obligation is essential.

AP – JJK to ask Fr Deeley if he can do a weekly mass for a class and then a class a week could go to mass.

EQUALITIES REP UPDATE

Looking for people with children with ASN to take turns attending this meeting and feeding back to the equalities rep. We have also put out a note to parents asking them if they would like to be part of an informal group for parents of children with ASN to be able to feed into this Council meeting. JJK will run this.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

In the account as of 23 November 2021: £4,810.55

Still to receive match funding for Mount Olympus

Since the last meeting we have received the council annual grant of £488.80 (this is around £15 less than we have received in the past)

We have a few know payments to come out before the end of the financial year – Christmas parties, House prizes and Easter Eggs.

NURSERY COFFEE MORNING FEEDBACK

Three sets of parents came to this. They liked the flyer we had with things to expect from the school and were looking forward to the video.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Tesco Community Grants – About to claim this but it will need a report and receipts towards the end of the year,.

Christmas Card status – Just about to place the late order.

Race to Mount Olympus – We raised £1,130 (£3,390 with double match funding)

Help Fund – KFW asked the rest of the Parents Council if they would be happy to have a ring fenced 'help out fund' for when someone may be struggling to take part in PC led/funded activities.

10 agreed

FUNDING REQUESTS

Christmas snacks

P1 Christmas presents – Will need a funding request for this one

Basketball net, football goals, chalk board, chalk, etc – have asked for £500

Outdoor learning - storage is the main thing that is needed – around £700

AP – KW to send PC a list of what is needed PC to look at what we can get for what price and then decide who is best placed to purchase the equipment.

Proposal has been made to give £750 for play and £750 for outside learning. Put to the rest of the Parent Council and 11 agreed so passed

Health Buddies

KFW put the idea of 'Health Buddies' to KW and the rest of the PC. This would see some older pupils take on the role of learning about the different foods children in the school can't have or won't have and ensuring that whenever there are treats for the children at school those buying them (school or PC) are aware of what people can have and that those children who need to avoid things feel included. KW likes this idea and will take it to the rest of the staff to see what they think and how it might work.

AP – KW to take this to the staff to see what they think and how it might work and feedback back to KFW.

AOB

This was the last meeting of 2021 so have a lovely Christmas and New Year everyone.

Next meeting – Wednesday 26th January 7pm to 8.30pm

ACTION SUMMARY

ACTION	OWNER	Due Date
Find foodbank contact	JJK	
Ask Fr Deeley if he could do a weekly mass for school so that each class could go once a month	JJK	
Send PC what is needed for Christmas treats and PC to get these	KW/PC	
Pitch the idea of Allergies / health buddies to the rest of the staff and discuss with them how it might work and feed back to KFW	KW	