



PRESENT: J Currie, D Wallace, V Anderson, L Cowie, S Smithers, L MacKinnon, B Smith, G McPetrie

APOLOGIES: P Wilson, F Thomson, J Boyd, J Johnson, M Slater, L McCauley

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by email, in advance of the meeting.

Post-meeting notes – added in blue, following JC's meeting with PW on 7.11.18.

Planning for the Year Ahead

Meeting dates were set for the coming year:

15 January	Internet Safety/Cyber Bullying
5 March	Outdoor Learning
7 May	Community Engagement
11 June	Looking to Next Session

At this time, last year, a focus for each meeting was agreed. Suggestions were invited towards this.

LC suggested input on Internet Safety/Cyber Bullying. Everyone was in support of this, for parents and pupils. Parents from neighbouring small schools could be invited. JC will discuss this with PW and will investigate sources. LC thinks there may have been information on Connect. *JC has contacted the Community Learning & Development team, at the council. They provided an evening session, a few years ago, which was well received. PW agreed it would be a good time to update this. JC has invited them to attend our January meeting, with a view to providing an event for all parents.*

ACTION JC &
PW

JC will approach PW for any further suggestions that he may wish to suggest for subsequent meetings, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Christmas Arrangements

- Eddie Robertson will be Santa again, for the Nursery and P1-3 parties, on Thursday 20 December.
- JC will purchase crackers for the School Christmas lunch, for 120 pupils plus the staff who will join in with the lunch. ACTION JC
- GM will purchase cake, juice, cups and napkins for the parties, these will be dropped off on the Wednesday, in the GP room. ACTION GM
- P4-7 Party, Wednesday 19 Dec, 1.45 pm – Helpers LC and DW. ACTION LC,
- P1-3 Party, Thursday 20 Dec, 1.45 pm – Helpers SS and VA. DW, SS & VA
- Nursery Party – Thursday 20 Dec, morning – Nursery to arrange separately.
- PW shared the following dates, by e-mail:
 - * Wed 5 Dec – Enterprise Fair 6pm
 - * Tues 11 Dec – School Christmas Lunch
 - * Friday 14 Dec – Christmas Jumper Day
 - * Friday 14 Dec – Nursery Nativity, 10 am
 - * Friday 21 Dec – Church Service 11.15 am

SS was thanked for arranging for the new nursery climbing frame, also Greg Smithers and Richard McCauley for putting it together.

SS has been in contact with the supplier 'Playdale', who have arranged to do a free site visit and survey of the outdoor area, with SS. It was noted that items are very expensive and that considerable fundraising will be required.

DW had visited Lairhillock and shared some photographs of some of their equipment, purchased from Marmax.

LC will look into potential grants to apply for and corporate funding, through contacts and clients.

ACTION LC

It was suggested that the children could be involved in the fundraising, by organising a whole school sponsored event.

It was agreed that, although it wouldn't go far, the agreed £2000 could still be spent on one or two items for the infants/uppers, as previously agreed, with a view to adding more once funding is in place.

JC, SS and DW (and possibly Nicola Reith who was previously keen to be involved with this – JC to check) will get together to agree a short list, from which the children could vote for their favourites.

ACTION JC,
SS, DW &
(NR?)

Tesco Bags of Help was also suggested, SS informed that she has already begun this, with the nursery, and the nursery team have the paperwork for it.

The question was raised as to whether items, such as basketball hoops, could be bolted to the ground to protect them from the wind/vandalism. DW explained that her husband, Mark, has done this for other schools and provides services to the council. [PW has asked Mark to come in to discuss this.](#)

Links with Banchory Academy Parent Council

JC met this week with Megan O'Hare (Banchory Academy Chair) and two Drumoak School parents, who are also on the Academy Parent Council – Trish Amundrud and Alison Smart. Megan is keen to work together with the feeder primaries and cluster meetings for representatives from each school council, will be organised twice per year.

The Academy Parent Council are keen to have our support in ensuring the land which was identified for a new Banchory Academy is reserved for this purpose and not used to build homes, even though the timescale for the new academy is unknown.

The Academy Parent Council have invited any suggestions for matters the primary school councils would like support with.

JC raised the issue of school transport to Banchory Academy, for children living within Drumoak village, after hearing of various issues with the bus in recent months. Alison and Trish are already looking into this matter.

Christine McLennan (Education Support Officer for Parental Engagement, Aberdeenshire Council) will host meetings for Parent Council Chairs/representatives, Jenny will attend and is awaiting a date. Anyone wishing to attend would be very welcome.

Website Feedback/Suggestions

GM has been updating and developing the website, with a group of pupils. So far, this has been led by the children's suggestions – adding information about extra curricular activities on offer and updating their class areas, for which they have been taking their own photographs to upload. The pupils are keen to update the photographs on the home page, but as these are professional images, GM felt that images of a similar quality would be better for the home page. SS suggested a parent who has an interest in photography – GM to investigate this.

ACTION GM

Any feedback/suggestions are welcomed for the website.

Fundraising Update

Prize Draw tickets will be printed this week. These can be sold out-with school and this is encouraged, to maximise profit. LM will distribute to anyone willing to sell. They will also be available from the school office.

Several members felt that 16 December was too close to Christmas for the movie night. It was agreed that this would be moved to Friday 23 or Sunday 25 November, LM to check these dates with PW and approach members of the fundraising group for someone to take the lead and for helpers on the night. LM will talk to JJ about what was required, previously.

Pupils can vote for a film – a new DVD release, or a Christmas Classic.

PW added that 25 November may not be suitable, due to a clash with football. GM will check with LM. ACTION LM

ACTION GM

Treasurer's Report

NR will complete handover to LC, next week.

The bank is yet to complete the updated signatories, LC will pursue this. ACTION LC

LC brought up the increasing costs of subsidising the photocopying bill. Suggestions for ways to reduce copies for homework and letters home were discussed. BS explained that all copying was logged and monitored and that, as a staff, they are aware of the issue. JC will discuss further with PW, taking forward some suggestions. It was thought that the staff might also have suggestions. ACTION JC

PW will get back to JC regarding the photocopying comments/suggestions.

Correspondence

A second parent from James Gregory Road, contacted the School Council about the need for a safe crossing at the school entrance, at the dropped kerbs.

GM e-mailed local councillors about this, in September. Sandy Wallace asked for this to be tabled at a meeting of councillors and officers in October. GM has e-mailed to request feedback from this and is awaiting a reply.

VA offered to discuss this with James Gregory residents and urge them all to make contact, to apply pressure. However, it was unclear whether or not the road had been adopted by the council yet, which could hold up progress.

AOCB

Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy 2018-2021

All members have been e-mailed information about this, from Christine McLennan. JC and VA will read the information and complete the survey on behalf of our School Council.

A consultation event will be held in Aboyne Academy, on 27 November. If anyone is interested in attending, please see JC.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 15 January, 6.30 pm