



**Minutes of the St. Mary's Episcopal Primary School Parent Council
Held on Monday 9th December 2013 at 7.15pm**

Present: Pauline Darnbrough, Fiona Frize, Nick Green, Jenny Kinvig, Matt Robinson, Mary Toop, Heather White

Apologies: Gemma Beher

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Apologies Gemma Beher sent her apologies.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes The minutes of 24/10/13 were approved.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising/Review of Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A joint statement from Mrs White and the PC regarding Facebook and Twitter will be released in January. - Julie Wild isn't available on 5/2/14, it was suggested that she be invited to the PC constitution meeting (originally planned for 13/1/14 but this is to be re-scheduled). 	<p>Mary Toop & Heather White</p>
4.	<p>Stirling Parent Council Network Communication and Engagement – Priority Based Budgeting Education Options Meeting Feedback Mary Toop reported back from this meeting, which was led by the director of education. The budget cycle for the council has changed from 3 to 5 years and over the next 5 years the council need to save £29 million. The potential implications for the school cannot be underestimated. Currently teacher hours are protected following the McCrone report but only until 2015 at which time the hours and ratios will be under review. Education is in a very vulnerable position. It is important that parents take the opportunity to comment on the proposals and make their views known. The link below is for a council survey regarding the budgeting proposals; the last date for participating in the survey is 15/12/13. http://www.stirling.gov.uk/services/council-and-government/workingtogether (The survey is at the bottom of the page this link takes you to.)</p>	
5.	<p>Parent Council E-mail Address Update The PC now has almost everybody's e-mail address and the intention is to start using the PC e-mail from the new year. Mary Toop will send a letter via the school to those families we don't have e-mail addresses for.</p>	<p>Mary Toop</p>

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6.	<p>Feedback From Prize Giving and Achievements Feedback has been received from the pupil council, each class and the parent body. Fiona Frize attended the pupil council responsibility group business meeting at which prize giving and achievements were discussed. The outcomes of the feedback and discussions from the children are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognition of why they have received a prize - more regular recognition of their achievements during the year - no one person making the decision of who gets which prize - introduce of a monthly peer award, recorded in a golden book and at the end of the academic year award a school citizen prize <p>Mrs White feedback the comments from parents on prize giving. Generally the feedback was positive, with some room for development in terms of the length of the event for the younger children.</p>	
7.	<p>School Project Update The school has been successful in securing the following funding: - Food for Thought - £3,300, Mrs Currie successfully applied for the funding to support this piece of work, which will culminate in an event at the Dunblane Hydro in the summer term, involving all the children. Parents and carers will be welcome too.</p> <p>Mountain Magic - £3,000, the aim of this project is to promote physical activity, with a focus on orienteering, the funding will also be used for Mrs Pearson to complete her level 3 forest schools qualification, 3 ipads and a G.P.S. will be purchased to assist with geocaching.</p> <p>McLaren Film Making – P5 and 6’s will participate in a workshop to learn film-making skills and then be able to make their own film.</p> <p>CBBC, Joke Factory – P5 and 6’s are being invited to be filmed against a green screen to tell their favourite joke, they will be pitched against another school and the ‘joke master’ will decide which is the funniest joke.</p> <p>The PC thanked the staff team for all of their hard work in preparing funding applications, they also wanted to acknowledge the hard work that is involved in fulfilling funding criteria, completing the piece of work and the follow up evaluation.</p>	
8.	<p>Budget Update See point 4</p>	
9.	<p>School Fundraising Strategy It was acknowledged that there have been a number of requests for money this term, all of them worthwhile, but nonetheless making it difficult for families to budget. It was suggested that there be a parent link between the school and the P.S.A. to develop a more joined up approach to fundraising. Mrs White will meet with the PSA in the new year to discuss this further.</p>	<p>Heather White & Fiona Frize</p>
10.	<p>Edmodo Parents have expressed concerns that P3/4 children are using Edmodo without their knowledge. Mrs White informed the PC that the intention to roll out Edmodo throughout the whole school was discussed at a Parents’ Information</p>	

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11.	<p>evening last year at which Mrs Smith gave a presentation about Edmodo. It was acknowledged that perhaps there were gaps in the dissemination of this information and a demonstration of Edmodo for parents is planned for the information evening on 5/2/14.</p> <p>It appears that on occasion, there are discrepancies between the homework listed in the learning log and Edmodo. This will be passed on to the relevant teachers.</p> <p>Nursery Newsletter Parents of Nursery children have expressed a wish to have the informal Nursery newsletter compiled by parents re-instated. Mrs White is happy for this to happen, however the lack of content and the issue of the nursery being included more in whole school systems was discussed. There is now a nursery section on the website and it would perhaps be preferable for the nursery parents to have a regular section in the school newsletter.</p>	Mrs KInvig
12.	<p>House Points The children devised a rubric (an assessment tool) for effort and behaviour; points are allocated in multiples of 5 up to 15. House points are allocated in the following way; -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teachers write the achievement and this is posted into a special box - each week the house captains (2 per house) go through the achievements box and together decide how many points should be awarded. The achievements are then added to the tree - at assembly the house captains go through the achievements and tell the children how many house points they have been awarded. - at the end of the week the house points are collated and added to the appropriate house. - Every few weeks the winning house chooses a treat <p>Mrs Kinvig and Mrs White reported growing success in shifting the culture of rewarding achievements away from solely certificated achievements to a range of much broader achievements. The children are now beginning to recognise personal achievements themselves.</p>	
13.	<p>A.O.B. Holmehill – The school is uncertain how long Homehill will be cordoned off for. Parents can be encouraged to contact Ingrid Withington (tree protection officer) at Stirling Council or contact one of the Stirling Council access officers.</p> <p>Calendar on the website – there are currently no dates shown on the school website calendar. It requires updating.</p>	
14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting T.B.C.</p>	