



**Minutes of the St. Mary's Episcopal Primary School Parent Council
Held on Wednesday 28th May 2014 at 7.30pm**

Present: Gemma Beher, Pauline Darnbrough, Sally Fraser (acting head teacher from August 2014) Fiona Frize, Jenny Kinvig, Matt Robinson, Mark Ruskell (Green Party councillor) Mary Toop, Heather White,

Apologies: Kate Baxter, Fiona Tullis

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Apologies Apologies were given as above.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes The minutes of 2/4/14 and 28/4/14 were approved.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising/Review of Actions - Julie Wild – it was suggested that Julie be invited to attend the AGM next academic year. - The agenda was not e-mailed to Mrs White and Mrs Kinvig, Pauline Darnbrough apologised for this oversight. - Parking on the single yellow line outside school remains an ongoing issue, particularly around nursery pick up time at 11.30am. A sign has been located and Matt Robinson offered to fix this to the fence. A suggestion was made of changing the single yellow line into a double yellow line; however, when previously a traffic study was conducted the results showed that there is not enough traffic to warrant a double yellow line. The police have also been approached and their view is, that if a driver is in the car while it is parked on a yellow line then it is not posing a risk. The speed of cars is also a concern. There was also discussion about the lack of sign at the end of Smithy Loan making drivers aware that there was a school and also that cyclists could be travelling the 'wrong way' down the street. Mark Ruskell said he would pursue this further.</p>	<p>Mary Toop</p> <p>Matt Robinson</p> <p>Mark Ruskell</p>
4.	<p>Appointment of Acting Head Teacher Sally Fraser, currently depute head at St. Ninian's Primary School has been appointed as the acting head teacher. Mrs White feels there is a shared philosophy and approach between the two schools and that Mrs Fraser will have lots of experience to bring to the school. She will be attending some of the school events so she can meet some of the children and parents and also to have the opportunity for a hand over with Mrs White.</p>	
5.	<p>Class Structure Mrs Hewitt has been successful in being appointed as depute head at Drymen Primary School. The council are currently advertising for 1 full time teacher and a .4 teaching position. Now Mrs White knows the staffing structure for the next academic year, the advert for the .4 position will be removed and 1 full time teacher will be</p>	

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	<p>recruited. This is a temporary position, which reflects the part of the post that is made up of a proportion of Mrs Smith's hours, which has been agreed under a flexible working agreement. She has the right to review this after one year. Interviews for the post will be held on June 10th, Mrs Fraser and Mrs Currie will be on the interview panel.</p> <p>The classes for next year will be as follows: - P1 and 2 Mrs Kinvig P3 and 4 Miss Hughes P5 and 6 vacancy P7 Mrs. Currie (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Smith (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).</p>	
6.	<p>Class Trips</p> <p>Mrs White was asked about school trips, in particular why P3/4 haven't had a class trip this year. Mrs White explained that she is trying to change the philosophy around school trips, in line with the curriculum for excellence. Trips will no longer be the traditional outing at the end of the summer term but will be used to support specific learning and could be at any appropriate time throughout the year. E.g P5/6 visiting the Banking Museum early in the year when their topic was money. As a result, this year for the P3/4's the investment in funds was spent in enhancing their outdoor learning experiences and the children had several outdoor sessions with Karen Yearsley, from a company called Learn Wild, which supported the children's learning, linked to their Food and Fitness topic. The children learned to explore their local environment and how they could forage for food. This learning experience was shared with parents in the children's floor book and as a workshop as part of the Food for Fitness festival.</p> <p>The school's approach is a desire to enhance the children's learning opportunities across the years, not necessarily equitable spending. Mrs White informed the meeting that whole school trips (such as last year's trip to Chamber Street Museum) have been requested by the pupils and will take place every 2 years.</p> <p>It was agreed that parents might not be aware of the shift in how/why trips are organised so Mrs White agreed to communicate this to the parent body in the next newsletter.</p> <p>Mark Ruskell shared information about Stirlingshire Educational Trust that makes grants for educational trips. It was agreed that this should be pursued.</p>	<p>Mrs White</p> <p>Mrs White/ Mrs Fraser</p>
7.	<p>Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan</p> <p>These reports will be circulated soon to the parent forum, they will also be published on the website.</p>	Mrs White
8.	<p>School Achievements and End of Term Prizes</p> <p>In the past the PSA bought dictionaries for the P7 leavers. This year the pupils have requested hoodies instead. The fundraising group will have to check whether there are sufficient funds for this increased spend as more was spent on the Dalguise subsidy than had been planned.</p> <p>In response to feedback last year, the school prize for each child will comprise of a certificate of achievement and a DVD photo story of the past academic year.</p>	Fundraising Group

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9.	<p>Mrs White left the meeting at 8.35pm.</p> <p>Stirling Council Parent Forum Mary Toop attended, SCPF. The key objective of SC is to target the lowest achieving 20% of children, at the meeting parents questioned that this could be at the cost of the other children. Mary Toop has circulated the Draft Education Service Plan and Consultation pro-forma to the PC for comments. On 9th September there will be a meeting regarding IT in schools. There is frustration amongst parents (at the SCPF meeting) about them not being able to donate any IT equipment to a school.</p>	
10.	<p>Dunblane Community Network Mary Toop attended the first meeting of this network who are trying to set up a Dunblane Forum type group; Mary Toop will distribute the minutes to the PC. DCN want to set up a forum to share information, the Dunblane Info website is very informative, trying to co-ordinate events in the town. It was agreed that it would be good to inform parents of the web page; it has been completely revamped and is very informative, and for the fundraising group to add any open events. The website address is - http://www.dunblane.info/</p>	<p>Mary Toop</p> <p>Mary Toop</p>
11.	<p>Website Everyone present agreed and are very appreciative of all the support and hard work Chris Sawyer gives to the school and the PC in administering the website. There are some aspects of the PC information that is now out of date, which prompted a discussion about how easily some of the PC information is accessed. It was suggested that we all study the PC parts of the website and meet on Wednesday 11th June at 8pm at Mary's house to discuss it. Pauline Darnbrough will e-mail Chris to let him know about the meeting and ask if he would like to attend.</p>	<p>Pauline Darnbrough</p>
12.	<p>A.O.B. Mrs Kinvig said that as the teachers are reflecting on the academic year they are amazed at how much the children have achieved, the children have done really well. The PC asked for their thanks to be passed onto the teachers for all their work in teaching and supporting the children.</p> <p>The school handbook on the school website is out of date but the correct version is published on the council website.</p> <p>Clarification was sought about parents helping their children change after TOPS. At the last PC meeting Mrs White stated that parents were not to come into the school, however the P1/2 children were finding it a struggle and required support. There will be no more TOPS now until the summer term and a changing policy for all after school clubs will be looked at then.</p> <p>A query was raised about parents being unaware of the policy on pupils not bringing birthday cake into school. It was acknowledged that this is as a result of various issues with allergies/food intolerances etc and was definitely communicated in a previous newsletter.</p> <p>A question was asked about Friends for Life. This is a programme that Mrs Currie and Mrs Reid are trained to deliver and the essence of it is that it is delivered to targeted groups of children, not as a whole school initiative, although there are</p>	<p>Mrs White</p>

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13.	<p>many other programmes, like Bounce Back, which is designed to be delivered as a whole school programme to support children in developing their strategies to become more resilient. Members of staff are acutely aware that there are some children in school who will benefit from the Friends programme and will endeavour to support those children accordingly. At present the course is being delivered to the P7 children ✱, by Mrs Currie, to support them in managing their transition to High School. The healthy start for next session will again look at building learning power, but this time will have a whole school focus on developing resilience, and learner independence.</p> <p>✱at the meeting it was said that it was the P5/6's that were currently receiving Friends for Life, this was corrected after the meeting by Mrs White .</p> <p>A question was asked about the date of the school show being changed. No one was aware of this having happened.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting A.G.M. Wednesday 10th September 2014 at 7.30pm.</p>	