



**Minutes of the St. Mary's Episcopal Primary School Parent Council
Held on Wednesday 29th October 2014 at 7.30pm**

Present: Gemma Beher, Pauline Darnbrough, Sally Fraser (Acting Head Teacher), Fiona Frize, Jenny Kinvig, Matt Robinson, Alison Sammut, Mary Toop, John Ure

Apologies: Hanneke Booij, Annabel Duffus, Hugh Grant, Mairi MacIntyre

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Apologies Apologies were given as above.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes 10th September 2014 – Feedback was received from a former member of the PC that the previous constitution was not a draft and had been ratified but the document had not been changed to reflect this. Apologies were noted for any misunderstanding but the current PC were not aware of this. Minutes from 10/9/14 were otherwise approved.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising Review of any actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs. Fraser to ask Mrs. Dewar for a pupil list done - Pauline to cross reference with current e-mail list done - Fiona to invite Julie Wild to PC meeting Julie is coming on 10/11/14 and all parents and staff are invited to attend – 7pm - Mary to contact SC and inform them of the details of the new office bearers and the PC e-mail address done - IT event postponed still postponed - Mrs. Fraser to investigate alternative source of school inform and supplier of a school cardigan see below. <p>Tesco are embroidering a knitted cardigan and are going to provide samples of the rest of the school uniform. Logo Express is also supplying samples but is still trying to source a knitted cardigan. Mrs. Fraser will report back once she has received all the samples. Gemma offered to do a wash test of the samples before the next meeting and liaise with Mrs. Fraser.</p>	Mrs Fraser & Gemma Beher
4.	<p>Edmodo/Mathletics Parents had enquired whether Mathletics and Edmodo were still being used within the school, especially given the time and expense that had been invested last academic year. A parent had also offered to support the staff team in utilising these programmes. Mrs Fraser explained that the licence for the Mathletics software had expired but has now been renewed. Refresher training will take place during the November in-service days for both Mathletics and Edmodo and will be used regularly after Christmas. The older children are currently using Edmodo.</p>	

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5.	<p>Sex Education Sex education, formerly SHARE is now referred to as Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood. There was a cluster meeting before the summer holiday to consider the framework that had been put together by Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils. The Dunblane cluster has adapted the framework to suit their needs and then each individual school can make final adjustments as appropriate. At parents evening in November there will be some information about the new approach. Mrs. Kinvig asked that it be minuted that, "as professionals, each teacher makes judgments across every area of the curriculum, every day, as to what each child needs to know and how it should be presented to them. I would like to think that my colleagues and I could be trusted by the parent body to extend this professionalism to Sexual Health Education too." The PC were clear that it wasn't an issue of trust or questioning the judgment of the staff, but recognising that sex education is a very personal and emotive subject.</p>	
6.	<p>School Nut Policy The staff were uncertain whether the school had a nut policy as such, because there was one implemented several years ago and no one knows whether it was rescinded historically or not. We discussed the issue and the consensus was that while there are children in the school with allergies sufficiently serious as to require epi pens (even though not all suffer from airborne triggers) it was simpler to have a policy that was easy for parents to understand. Mrs Fraser agreed to put information in the school newsletter about being a 'nut-free' school.</p>	Mrs Fraser
7.	<p>Next Year's P7 trip to Dalguise There will be a PC subsidy for this trip of £40 per child; the costs for this trip have increased due to various factors. Other fundraising options are being considered.</p>	
8.	<p>Health Notifications Questions had been raised as to whether the school could inform parents when they were made aware of issues such as head lice. The government advises that a school can't do this; Mrs. Fraser will provide some general information about head lice in the newsletter including links to useful websites, Treatment options were discussed at some length, including the proposal for the PC to help fund the purchase of Bug Busting Kits for all families in the school. It was agreed that this was not the most beneficial way to spend funds, it was also discussed that the Bug Busting Kit (series of different sized combs to be used with ordinary shampoo and conditioner) is available from pharmacies on the minor ailments scheme.</p>	Mrs Fraser
9.	<p>Water Bottles in Class There have been changes in some classes where the water bottles are no longer on the tables any more. Children are regularly reminded to have a drink and can get up and have a drink when they want to.</p>	
10.	<p>Clackmannanshire and Stirling Parent Forum Meeting This takes place on 4/11/14 at 6.30pm at St. Modan's High School, Mary and possibly Matt will attend.</p>	

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11.	<p>Head teacher Report Mrs. Fraser reported the following appointments, Esther Laing (Support For Learning), Sharon Crossan (P.E maternity cover).</p> <p>Standardised testing has just finished for the P3, 5 and 7's; Mrs. Fraser will share the general trend of the results (not details of specific pupils) at the next meeting and reminded those present that the results are just a snapshot of a child's progress.</p> <p>St. Mary's has registered for the Schools Scotland Sports Award, which involves pupil and parent involvement, it is possible to achieve a bronze, silver and gold award.</p> <p>St Mary's Episcopal Church is considering putting tarmac on the lane from the school to the hall. As much as it was recognised this would solve the issue of the potholes, due to the potential slippery surface of tarmac, such a change would affect the risk assessment of the children moving between the school and hall. During the winter months it would have to be gritted on a regular basis. There was a concern about how safe such a surface would be in the cold weather.</p> <p>Mrs. Fraser said she was conscious that the school had been asking for lots of donations recently and therefore asked for the opinion of those present as to whether the school should support Children in Need this year. It was agreed that the school would support Children In need and provide the opportunity for the children to participate if they wish to.</p>	
12.	<p>A.O.B. Stirling Council Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) – SC have proposed that the funding for the peripatetic nursery teacher teaching service comes to an end. The PC will remind people to look at PBB information and highlight the dates of relevant meetings. Possible other proposals that could have a negative impact on the school are: - P.E. and music provision Nursery teaching provision ASN outreach service</p> <p>Forest Schools - The experience of outdoor learning is now broader than just focusing on forest schools. Mrs. Kinvig and Mrs. MacGregor are in the process of renewing their first aid certificates. Mrs. Currie is working on a project in Kippenrait Glen which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the council are trying to encourage this project and learning opportunity, this will be a piece of work involving the P7's.</p> <p>School Drop-Off On Wet Mornings - On wet mornings the door will be opened a few minutes early if the rain is torrential.</p> <p>Money from SC to support the PC - this money isn't in the devolved budget but is to support the work of the PC, Mrs. Fraser will ask Mrs. Dewar for information.</p> <p>Kilt Walk – Mary will talk to Mrs. Currie because she has participated in the Kilt walk previously. Mary will investigate and gather information,</p>	<p>Fiona Frize</p> <p>Mrs Fraser</p> <p>Mary Toop</p>
13.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 19th January 2015 at 6.30pm</p>	