

## Gordon Primary Parent Council

17 March 2022

Present: Maria, Roni, Fi, Amanda, Mariana, Anna, Lucy, Yvonne, Louise, Mrs Cargill, Mrs Lochhead, Mr Devlin, Mr Wilson

### General update

The playground tyres are appreciated by the pupils. Roni is taking grass seed to the school over the Easter holidays. Wood chippings were offered but here are problems keeping the chippings in one place. P6/7 wrote thank you letters to C&R Tyres, who were delighted and are using some of the letters on their Instagram page. Quite a few other Parent Councils have been asking how to do it. Thanks given to all who helped.

### Meeting of Parent Council Chairs

Key topics included funding, mask requirements, assemblies, virtual meetings, etc. as well as the need for Primary School children to start thinking about careers. Career week is being held after Easter and it is hoped people can be brought into the school to help make the link between current learning and work in the future.

P5, 6, 7 pupils will take part in the **School Census** to gather information on children's wellbeing and needs. Reminder will be sent to parents again. Children can opt out when doing the Census up until the point they have to submit. Expect to do the Census in the next week or so.

### Headteacher Update

The school is trying to take part in **national events** e.g. World Book Day, Wellbeing Week (some different activities this year e.g. Cahoot quiz, capture the flag (house teams)). Children enjoyed the week and had some ideas which will be considered for next year. Scots language week involved lots of art, literacy, learning new words and poems, famous Scots etc. Nice to have these weeks to get away from the norm. Hoping to grow links with the wider community and invite parents into the school again.

**Staff absence** has been tricky recently due to Covid. Noted that when Additional Needs Assistants are absent there is no budget to replace them (unlike with teachers). Trying to use other resources e.g. Mr Devlin, Mr Wilson and hope things will improve next week.

**Vision Values Aims** – feedback from parents was useful. Values include inspiration, nurturing, creativity and community. The Nursery also decided on values which were linked but not identical, but it has now been agreed to use the same themes across school and nursery. A graphic designer has been contacted to ask for some ideas for the boards at the front of the school. Boards are costly – to replace them will be about £280 which will fade in about three years. Shop-style signage would last longer, but would cost about £850. There is some money saved over the years which could be used. Should the school pay or can the Parent Council help fund the boards?

Hoping to buy some **new novel sets** for P4/5 and P6/7. A wish-list is being created. Support from the Parent Council would be appreciated.

Questionnaire sent out about the pupil **reports** (learning overviews, mid-term reviews and Showbie) but there was limited feedback. Learning overviews let parents see progress, which is nice. Some

guidance would be useful on how regularly parents should be checking Showbie? There is no set rule, just when it suits. Noted it was good for the children to learn to use the technology as well.

### **P6/7 updates**

Expecting the **current P6** will be able to go on a **residential** trip in September. Information session will be held soon.

A number of **P7 transition arrangements** are in place. P7 have been commended for their behaviour on the trip to Earlston High yesterday

Order forms for **hoodies for P7s** will be sent out to parents

### **School photos**

Yid photography has been contacted. Two dates booked, one for individual and family photos, one for class photographs. Dates to be added to the newsletter. Mr Wilson to check if the P7 photos can be used for the YoungScot cards. If it is too late, an alternative solution will be found.

### **Community Garden**

Tesco money (£1000) will not be spent on hens. Nursery and P1/2/3 use the wildlife garden regularly and the school is hoping to use the funds to develop the area to make this more community focused e.g. outdoor classroom; barbecue. Chair noted they had previously been told the school grounds could not be used for community purposes. Would be nice if the community and school can work together, so the community can use the grounds in the summer months.

**New fence** was needed for the wildlife garden. Bob has delivered posts and chicken wire. Co-op fund has £163 which needs to be used to buy a shed or garden tools. Hope to have a working group for the community garden.

Asda have brought out two grant schemes (deadline 25<sup>th</sup> April) which Parent Councils can apply to. Fund can be used for end of school celebration; for wellbeing; things for the wildlife garden, etc.

**P7 end of year celebration** – will ask the P7s for suggestions. Parent Council does not have to fund all proposals.

### **Car parking**

Letter to be written to the community council about the parking. A few people park in the Church car park, and it is busier in the morning than the afternoon. Worth reminding people to use this location, but there is not a lot of space. People can also park on the Main Street or Station Road.

### **Funds**

Money raised since the last meeting includes £512.40 for squares at Christmas as well as the £215 grant from SBC. Paid out £123.67 for Christmas and £20 travel for sports competition. Currently have £3,327.18 in the bank. Payment just received from Easy Fundraising for £88.07 but this has not been banked yet.

Just Giving page currently has £695 and has been extended to November to fund new basketball hoop and football goals. Playground Pennies to continue. Easter extravaganza planned with Body Shop prizes - card with 10 squares (£1 per square) to be given to each family. Easter egg raffle in school in past years – could P7s organise it this year? Used to have one egg for each year, with raffle tickets sold to pupils for 20p per ticket. Happy to ask the P7s or House Captains to sell tickets during school. Parent Council to advertise and buy eggs.

Website has been revised. Finance information needs updated.

## **Clothing**

**Sweatshirts for P7s** - noted that pale blue is not very practical. What other colours are available? Chair to get list of colours and parent council to discuss. Suggestion that hoodies could be given to children earlier, but comment that washing and drying for the next day is difficult. Also seen as an early leaving present for the children, so should be given after Easter. Noted some children still fit their P6 jumpers, so it is an added expense for parents when they have to buy a new sweatshirt for one year.

Please make sure children have a pair of **indoor shoes**. Classrooms are getting filthy. Asking for better rugs for children to wipe their feet once they get inside. Can teachers also remind children to change shoes?

## **Other business**

Some former pupils are keen to help their old school, so if there was a list of things where help was needed that would be very useful. Can we advertise a school working day?