

Gordon Primary School Parent Council

6th February 2023

Notes

Present: Mr Wilson, Roni, Maria, Yvonne, Louise, Lucy and Anna

Apologies: Gill, Sabina

It was noted only a few people attend the Parent Council meetings. Suggested future meetings could swap between in-person and Teams to give more people the opportunity to come along. Noted children are able to come along to the meetings and sit in the library while the meeting takes place.

Headteacher update

Swimming lessons

Costs work out as £1.60 per lesson for each child, plus £150 per session for the bus. Possibility of identifying selection of pupils to go to lessons (equity/equality to be considered). Swimming lessons may be part of a bigger agenda at HQ, so suggestion to wait.

Noted all current school trips are encouraging a donation of £3, which is normally about half the cost of the trip.

Staffing

An update on P6/7 teaching staff will follow in the near future.

P7 Leavers' Hoodies

Cost approximately £18 to be split between Parent Council and the School. Agreed the hoodies would be the same colour as the P7 jumper with gold lettering.

Community/School Wildlife Garden

An evaluation report for the funders was completed at the end of January. Various items have been ordered, and some have arrived. These include bark, slate chips, soil, gardening tools, fire pit, oven and more. Tried to stick to the children's ideas as much as possible. Suggestion that P7s could paint a stone for the garden, and build up a record of former pupils over time. Bug hotels and hedgehog houses also being considered. Gazebo/ tarpaulin to be considered for future when more funding is available.

It has proposed to have regular garden updates through:

- Standing item in newsletter
- School website, where others could submit ideas for future development of the garden
- News report-style updates from pupils

- Outdoor learning day and garden development opportunities – two separate days planned for P4/5s and P6/7s, plus a stay and play day for Nursery/P1/2/3.

Hope to get gardening group up and running, possibly after school with some parent help. Some concern over the maintenance of the garden in the holidays. GPS recognises community involvement is very important.

Proposal to install security camera overlooking the wildlife garden was approved (£460) and will be fitted on 14th February.

Other spend requirements

Need to consider resurfacing the MUGA; and install additional goal posts. KW to check on contractors we can use to get costs. Noted PE equipment is being assessed for safety soon. Flower Show has donated £250 to the School. Agreed this could be used to buy better sports kit for the big class to use when attending inter-school competitions.

Traffic calming

Mariana has been in touch with SBC about repairing the bollard damaged by the bin lorry but no progress to date. Roni to follow up on 'School' sign at the bottom of Murrayfield.

Treasurer's Report

Just Giving page brought in £724.27 over the two years it was running. Co-op donations have given a total of £1254.56 for the garden.

Halloween Disco brought in £75; Rag Bags £60; Interest £0.97; Christmas Fayre £281.35; old Toast money £55.35; Christmas raffle £489; Christmas teas and coffee £82.25; Easy Fundraising £17.27. Currently have £5,783.81 in the account.

Noted Asda has opportunities for other grants and fundraising opportunities e.g. bag-packing

NFU competition

The children have been asked how they would like to spend the prize money (£1000) from the NFU Christmas card competition. Suggestion for all to encourage children to think about it over the holidays.

School trips

Parent Council agreed they would probably support school trips.

Nursery/P1/2/3 considering going to Dynamic Earth. Marchmont House (art collection and garden sculptures) was also suggested, noting they also provide transport.

Access to school

Noted it has been difficult to access the school/ teachers at times. KW to discuss with BA. Request that parents make an appointment to see the teacher if possible, or discuss things at the end of the day.