

Gordon Primary Parent Council

8th September 2022

Present: Mr Wilson, Roni, Gill, Sam, Fiona, Sabina, Lucy, Louise

Apologies: Maria, Yvonne, Kerry, Mariana

There was a recap of issues raised at the previous two meetings.

- Indoor shoes are required and should be worn to protect the new carpets. Note to be added to the school newsletter
- Some discussion about whether all the classes should line up at the front of the building again
- Road safety has been discussed. The pavement opposite the childminder's will be changed from the current curve to a right angle to stop people parking there. It may also help to slow cars down. Another reminder to be added to the school newsletter to urge parents to park on the Main Street, at the church or at the bottom of Murrayfield and walk round to the school. Suggestion to get pupils to make short videos for the School Facebook page appealing to drivers to go more slowly and drive more safely.
- School photos were better this year, particularly the individual and family shots. KW to ask about possibility of different options when purchasing photos e.g. different size, without mounts, etc.

Funds update

- JustGiving total stands at £670. Piece to be added to newsletter to encourage collection of 'playground pennies' again.
- Sports equipment: received grant of £500 from Asda which was topped up with £400 to renew various items of equipment, including crash mats, basketballs etc. Around £2000 of equipment has been 'condemned', although this is being investigated by the Council. Applying for more funds from Asda in the hope of getting new football posts and basketball hoops at both ends of the MUGA. Agreed should also consider resurfacing. KW to send costs to RS. Potential to have a Saturday morning Asda bag packing event and raise more funds.
- Some Co-op funding received in April (£198); more to follow at end of October to be spent on the garden. Bid to be submitted for next year
- A grant of nearly £3000 received for garden project, following the cycle from compost and growing vegetables to creating meals with from the produce. Lorna Jamieson in the Nursery is leading on the project and will set up a committee comprising pupils, parents and staff.

Headteacher Update

Whole school is looking better after a complete clear out, fresh paint and new carpets. The plan to extend the kitchen area has been paused since free school meals for P6 and P7 has been put on hold.

School Improvement Plan (update from KW)

School and the Community

Hope to get the school and the community more integrated. Suggestion that Captains and Vice-Captains help at the Macmillan Coffee Morning on 29th September. Any other suggestions welcome.

P7 Residential

More information on the P7 residential will be sent out. FAQ session being held online on Thurs 15th September. The bus will drop everyone at Earlston – it would cost more to bring pupils back to Gordon. If there are issues about collecting pupils, please let the school know.

Wish list

Teachers would like two Tuff Trays (one with a stand) and chalkboard pens; small world play things and Oxford educational games. Query over how the money from the Parent Council (£150 per class) was spent – KW to check.

Swimming

Should swimming lessons start again? It used to be for the P5 class. Some debate – it costs about £1200 for the bus to be hired to take the pupils to Kelso for six half-hour lessons (although it is a full morning/ afternoon out of school for each lesson). Children are taught in groups of about 12 per teacher. Question over how much the children can learn in that time; noted some pupils don't like friends to see them unable to swim, etc. However, it was noted the cost of swimming lessons and transport can be quite significant for larger families. Fiona and KW to check if Duns and Kelso swimming pools have any grants for helping with swimming lessons. Also consider if Live Borders do water safety talks?

Fundraising

Events can be held in the school again. Booking form to be completed for Halloween disco on 28th October and consider when to hold Christmas Fayre. Suggestion to have people hand in outgrown Halloween costumes to make them available before the disco (similar to the approach for school uniform).

Children have been drawing pictures for Christmas (same as last year) to raise money for the school. Cards, coasters etc. will be available for parents to buy. Tea-towels to be used to raise funds around April/ May 2023.

Actions

- Add notes to school newsletter about:
 - Indoor shoes
 - 'playground pennies'
 - Road safety and parking
 - Co-op membership – please become a member and pick GPS as the local cause
- KW to send MUGA costings to RS asap to allow for another funding application to be submitted
- KW to check how the money from the Parent Council (£150 per class) was spent
- Fiona and KW to check if Kelso and Duns swimming pools have any grants for helping with swimming lessons.
- Book school hall for Halloween disco and consider timing for Christmas Fayre