

Parent Council Meeting

18th November 2024, St John Staff Room, 7pm



Apologies

- Mrs Layden
- Stephanie
- Craig Wilson
- Angela Hoey
- Caroline Kane

Head Teachers Report - reviewed

Building Repairs

- Progression on the roof repairs
 - repair costs in
 - report submitted
 - provisional date of January given
- Kitchen gone out to tender
 - possible start date January
- Extension leak
 - maintained and patched up

Christmas Shows

- Survey results were that Theatre style is preferred
- Free Tickets - tying in with cost of school day
- 3 showings
- Letter coming in November advising parents of times and dates

Other Topics

- Christmas donations - St Vincent De Paul donations were significant and are being kindly distributed
- Homework Survey - many replies, overall consensus was understood to be relevant.
- Cost of the school day - school remains focusing on this, and will continue to include updates in each Sway letter.

- The Tunnel - Amey (the company) are taking responsibility for the roads and tunnel maintenance. Scott Makenzie (local artist) will be creating a mural and incorporating the ideas P5- P7 pupils put forward.

Finance Update

- Discussed balance just over - £3000.43
- Deposited cheque from "easyfundraising"
- Paid for the rice to Malawi
- Paid for half the cost of the C-touch as agreed
- Paid for the Holy Cross Ties for P7
- Paying for playground improvements and veg patches
- Helen and Deborah now have access to the account for easier transitioning

Smartphone Update

- Survey positive responses, with lower school P1- P3 parents engaging the most, P4-P5 parents answering with some having access and most senior pupils P6 - P7 mostly having access already.
- Stats provided and available from the Smartphone Team
- Pledge/ Pact is to wait until after P7 before giving children a smartphone (regular phones not included in this- key findings are in relation to accessing the internet)
- Whatsapp groups created for those in each pact - grouping parents for each primary year together - with their permission - most opted into the groups
- 11th Feb is "Safer Internet Day 2025" team discussing with school staff on what to do for awareness of this.

Action

- Agreed to share the government petition on the Parent Council/ St John the baptist facebook page.
- Smartphone Safety Group to follow up with teacher around 11th Feb awareness day.

December Stall

- 1st December there is a festive market at Uddingston Cross.
- Kevin will be representing the school looking after the stall- seeking volunteers
- 40 P5- P7 pupils will be singing carols
- Stall space 1pm- 3pm
- Any funds made goes to the summer fete fund.
- Each PC member and those attending will post in various chats to seek volunteers.

Playground

- Aim is to improve the outdoor learning and sustainability

- Kelly, Craig, Kevin worked to clear and start the beds for growing
- Harvests will now be shown throughout the year and children were able to learn about what grows when, and how to plant.
- Working in partnership with the Cook Club
- Children learning about lasagne layers

Men's Shed Partnership

- Started by helping with Summer Fete
- Made the herb planter
- Building the bird box (consulting with the RSPB to ensure all safe and protected- placement TBC)
- Creating a large bug hotel
- Making benches and a reading throne

Positives

- Ties in with outdoor learning
- Reading throne offering more opportunity for children to read (working towards Reading School)
- The Cooking Club gaining seasonal ingredients and teaching and showing sustainability
- Supporting the Men's Shed which is a positive group and often used as an aid for positive mental health.

Vote

- Put to a vote to go ahead with buying the wood for £1051.68 for all the wood required for the above - unanimously agreed.

Containers

Issues with repairing/ maintaining

- Cannot be cleaned - too far from the hose
- Not safe spaces for storage
- Cannot be decorated due to the state of the exterior/ rust

Containing suggestions

- Get another to replace it
- Contact companies that could replace it and take away the existing one

Action

- Mrs Currie enquiring about who could move it or take responsibility for it or disposing

Fundraising

- January sub group needed
- Sponsored walk - 19th May
- Silent Disco going ahead

Actions

- All appealing for help within each parent/ year group for January fundraiser

AOB

- Subsidising P7 hoodies
- Additional fundraising - School discos in the Chapel hall
- Reading - Subsidising books and accepting donations
- Suggested sponsor book lists
- School requires more fiction books
- All working towards being a Reading School
- Asda Cash Rewards - £250
- Calendars - agreed to do these again.
- Question around connecting more with the care homes, and how the kids can do this. Teachers were able to advise the issues and feedback (spreading colds etc) But that overall it is a very positive connection.

Actions

- Kevin speaking to Craig about calendars