

FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL
Tuesday 16TH June, 7PM
(Virtual meeting via VScene)

Present	Apologies
Steven Johnston (Chair) Gemma Dorricott (Treasurer & P3/4/6S Rep) Katrina Budge (ELC Rep) Barbara Brown (ELC & P1/2S Rep) Jess Smith (P1/2RM & P6/7H Rep) Karen Rorie (P3/4WL and P6/7R Rep) Alice Peace (P4/5T Rep) Ola Slater (P4/5T Rep) Emma McConnachie (P4/5T & P5/6F Rep) Alison Brown (P6/7R Rep) Carly Tait Erik Tait Jenna Johnston Helen Killeen (Business Manager) Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager) Donna Reid (Class Teacher) Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher) Sharon Muir (Depute Head)	

1. Opening of Meeting

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over some general housekeeping for holding the meeting online.

2. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Approval of previous minutes from the last meeting 16 January 2020 had been emailed to the group and were agreed.

4. Action Log

4.1 Assume all aspects of Treasurer's role

No further along with this due to COVID 19 and Bank closures.

4.2 Fundraising – Family Photographs

The Facebook poll highlighted there was a fair amount of enthusiasm in favour of this. Revisit when COVID 19 circumstances have improved.

4.3 Other Fundraising ideas

Carry this over to next meeting.

4.4 Fundraising - Christmas Card orders to be sent.

This has now been done

4.5 Steven to email Karen Walter regarding parking and traffic issues

Karen Walter had said now was a good time to look at the issues as the school was revising the School Travel Plan. Sharon and Helen met with Stephen Burnett, who has taken over from Karen Walter, and he was keen to look at the parking and traffic issues further. It was a positive meeting and Sharon and Helen were confident there was going to be a way forward.

4.6 Steven to post on the chat about dates and times, locations for the quiz night.

Quiz to be carried forward. We may need to consider doing it virtually.

4.7 Steven to contact Simon Hay from the police regarding internet safety.

The Police offered an Internet Safety course at KGS. FoG promoted the event and also promoted and sent links for a Connect Event also on Internet Safety.

5. Head Teacher Update

Online Learning

Everybody is working very hard behind the scenes to provide Learning Grids for pupils each week. Laptops had been provided for some families who were in need and bespoke plans had been issued for some children too. The Learning Grids have a theme each week that is for the whole school in the hope this makes learning at home more manageable. FoG were asked to provide feedback on how the Online Learning was going so far. It was felt that a good range of open ended ideas were provided and it was helpful to have the theme for the whole school as children were working together at home sometimes. It was felt that it had been a fairly positive experience and it was nice to be more involved with the learning. Some children had really enjoyed the face to face sessions that teachers have organised for small groups. Seesaw was working well as a platform and it was hoped the increased communication with parents could be continued when school returns.

Return to school

Work has been done on thinking through the logistics of returning to school and looking at the capacity of each classroom when physical distancing measures are involved – looking at 10 pupils per room. There are currently sections of the school that cannot be used as they are involved in the Nursery Build which is hoped to go ahead on schedule. Consideration is being given to different models of blended learning and meeting with the Education Executives would provide some clarification. Classrooms will look different; ten tables in each classroom and pupils will have a tray with their own learning materials. There would be different entrances for children in order to minimise contact with others. There would be staff assigned to each ‘bubble’ of 10 again to limit contact with others. The playground would also be zoned so that each ‘bubble’ had a zone for playing in. Children would not all attend the dinner hall as usual and instead lunch may be eaten in the classroom. The ‘bubbles’ of 10 would then be built on over time as measures were eased and this would be done in a way that builds up to form their whole class. Transitions were recognised as a priority and work was already underway with KGS providing videos of staff and departments and sharing them with P7 pupils.

5.1 Q & A session with HT

Would family groups be attending on the same day?

It was hoped that this would be the case to make it as straightforward as possible for families.

Were classes changing this session?

Yes, classes will be changing. It would be an 8 class model. Given the current set up, classes had to change as the p7's from the p6/7 would be leaving and also a new intake.

Could children get the same teacher on their return to support children in their return to school?

It was acknowledged that children would be anxious about their return to school but due to temporary contracts some staff would not be staying at the school therefore it is not possible for all classes to have the same teacher again. Staffing was not yet confirmed as interviews are yet to happen but parents will be informed when there is more information.

Would physical distancing be expected in ASN classes?

It was recognised that physical distances were not realistic in some situations. Guidance had come out for the Early Years and some of those principles could also be applied in the support classes.

What might the return to school look like? Would it be half days?

It is hoped to be a whole day/back to back days rather than half days. FoG were asked for their opinion on whether it would be better to have set days for each week or different days each week. Opinions were that it would be easier to organise work if there were set days each week that you knew your child would be in school.

Post meeting note: Following Scottish Government advice issued shortly after the meeting the assumption is now that all schools return in August with a short transition period before resuming without the need for physical distancing between children.

6. Early Learning and Childcare Update

Shaun Tulloch gave the group an update. The nursery were continuing to engage with families through Seesaw but it is tricky to deliver nursery online. Practitioners were doing well creating video content and sharing this with pupils. They are keeping in regular contact with families and feedback was positive. The plan to deliver 1140 hours had been put on hold by the Scottish Government and they would no longer be required to provide this come August. Everyone was working hard to offer it as best and as soon as they can. New staff were currently being appointed in preparation for the increased hours.

Return to nursery – Guidance had just been issued from the Scottish Government. The guidelines are practical and recommend the children being in 'bubbles' of 8 and a member of staff attached to each 'bubble'. Each 'bubble' would also have their own space within the nursery and different 'bubbles' would not mix so as to minimise contact risks. The nursery was well set up for this as already has 4 distinct spaces.

Transition things are being prepared now. There would be a staggered return in August with those children going into P1 returning first and nursery staff and key workers supporting them and passing them on to P1 staff. This would also help to bring nursery to a close for

pupils. Week 2 would involve current nursery children returning and settling in. Week 3 would be for new starts. More information would be provided on the gradual return in due course.

The nursery would aim to take a similar approach to the school and try to have families in on the same day.

They are looking at creative ways to introduce new children to the nursery by providing videos etc. The importance of developing relationships with staff was recognised. It was suggested that such videos could be used to help introduce children throughout the school to their new teachers and school environment as it is anticipated that this will look very different.

7. Nursery Extension

The nursery extension could still be on track for completion by summer 2021. There had been a slight hold up with the architect but there has been no updated timeline yet. It is hoped that it proceeds quickly and the intention is that part of the build is ready in January.

8. Residential Trip Cancellation

BACS transfers had been made early in lockdown. One parent was waiting on a small amount of money being returned but this was in hand.

No chance to think ahead to future trips as everything still uncertain. It was noted that the residential trip in September was unlikely to happen.

9. Library Update (Tesco Award)

It was noted that we need to spend this money in a reasonable amount of time and then share evidence of how it was spent with Tesco. However, some leniency is expected with the Covid pandemic. It is maybe worth considering ideas so we are ready to spend the money when things return.

10. Traffic Concerns

This was covered earlier in the meeting – see Action Log 4.5.

11. Playground Safety

A parent had gotten in touch with feedback over the safety of a piece of equipment in the playground. Ingrid had spoken with the parent who had a great range of ideas to improve the area. Sharon suggested involving the pupils in redesigning the area when things return to normal. Keep as item on agenda for the next meeting.

12. Treasurer's Update

A refund had been provided from Picky for the cancellation of the hall. It was brought up that maybe it would be easier to close the bank account and set up a new one as the transferring of names is proving so difficult. Steven and Gemma to find out more about this.

13. Extra Curricular Sports

13.1 Football Update

Fraser Anderson had been in touch asking about arrangements for football. This is to be added to the agenda for discussion when school and after-school clubs return.

14. Fundraising

Add to agenda for next meeting.

15. AOCB

The 10th and 11th August would be In-service days for staff and the plan is for 'bubbles' of pupils to return on 12th August. This is a week earlier than pupils in Orkney were originally due to return after summer. Parents will be given more information on this.

16. Correspondence

A message of thanks for all of the hard work by staff was passed on from another parent.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be the 25th August 2020 and will be held virtually. This will be an opportunity to meet and see how things are settling in after summer before having our AGM later in term 1.

18. Closure of Meeting

The meeting was closed at 20.40.

Action Log 2020-2021			
No:	Owner	Action	Date Complete
1.	GD	Assume all aspects of Treasurer's role prior to next meeting, i.e. update meeting on income, expenditure and balance to date. Also to ask Kerry Leask about auditing procedure. 16/01/20 – Still had not assumed all aspects of Treasurer's role. Have to do it all online now, further looking into required. On hold due to COVID-19.	
2.	SJ	Fundraising - Family Photographs in 2020 – Steven to contact Fiona Scott. 16/01/20 – Steven contacted Fiona Scott and she has said that this is feasible. Discussions about when and where photos will take place. Facebook poll to be conducted 19/01/20. On hold due to COVID-19.	
3.	SJ	Other FOGS fundraising ideas – book sale, bingo, quiz, Cube/game show. On hold due to COVID-19.	
Recently Completed Actions			
	SJ	Steven to email Karen Walter regarding parking and traffic issues	19/02/20
	SJ	Steven to post on the chat about dates and times, locations for the quiz night.	08/02/20
	SJ	Steven to contact Simon Hay from the police regarding internet safety.	20/01/20