

FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL
Thursday 3rd June 2021 at 7pm
(Virtual Meeting via VScene)

Present:

Steven Johnston (Chair)
Karen Rorie (P3/4WL and P6/7R Rep)
Barbara Brown (ELC & P1/2S Rep)
Jess Smith (P1/2RM & P6/7H Rep)
Gemma Dorricott (Treasurer & P3/4/6S Rep)
Donna Reid (P3 parent)
Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)
Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)
Helen Killeen (Business Manager)
Ola Slater (P4/5T Rep)

Apologies

Emma McConnachie (P4/5T & P5/6F Rep)
Claire Darbinyan (P1S Rep)
David Johnston (P2/3/4 Rep)
Sharon Muir (Deputy Head)
Alice Peace (P4/5T Rep)
Erin Thomson (Minute Taker)

1. Opening of the Meeting

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting. Donna agreed to take minutes. Erin is stepping down as minute taker as she is approaching maternity leave. Steven will look to finding someone else to take on the paid role (but this cannot be a parent or OIC employee) if no-one is keen to do it on a volunteer basis.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies can be seen above.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes 18th March 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and there were no amendments to be made.

4. Action Log Update

See action log for details (below).

5. Playground equipment and Safety

Steven asked for an update on the progress of the climbing frame repair as he noticed it is still fenced off. Helen said they had been waiting on small parts that have now arrived back in James Price's workshop and she is hopeful that it will be repaired and back in use before the end of term.

Post meeting note: Email on 04.06.21 from H.Kileen confirming that arrangements are now in place to have the equipment fixed.

6. Head Teachers Update

Ingrid explained although Orkney move to Level 0 this weekend, the guidance for schools and current COVID mitigations remain unchanged and we must still follow the guidance. e.g. keeping children in class groups, staggered break/lunch times. This also means things that would normally happen in term 4 such as Sports Day are not permitted. Kate Towsey has been looking in to arranging something we can do as a school to mark the end of term.

Teachers are currently working on end of year learning updates. These will be sent home during the 2nd last week of term. Updates include Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) levels, comments from teachers, children and a space for parent/family comments. This provides an opportunity for parents to comment on their children's experiences of home and school learning. Ingrid explained they had explored the possibility of holding virtual parents evenings but this was not possible in addition to reporting levels the authority has requested all schools in Orkney do.

Ingrid informed parents that there are some teaching staff vacancies for next school year. Gill Charlesworth is retiring this summer. Her vacant 0.5 post has already been filled by Paige Archibald who is coming from Papdale. Corey Symond's fulltime and Emma Moodie's 0.4 maternity leave posts are live vacancies on My Job Scotland. The posts were advertised this week with a closing date of next week. They will try to appoint these posts before the end of term. There is likely to be space for one probationer and information about this is coming through. Ingrid is unable to share the make-up of classes for next year as different combinations are still currently being explored, partly due to the current vacancies. There will be 8 mainstream classes (the same as this year) + support classes. Due to numbers coming in from nursery, a large current P1 and a small current P6 it is likely that there will be some composite classes. It is likely that art and music will continue to be taught in classrooms due to the nursery build. Lack of space continues to present problems that are still being worked through. Transition from Nursery to P1 is being looked in to, to see what is possible with children all still in separate bubbles. Shaun highlighted that ELCC staff will be available the first weeks of the new school year to support transition to P1.

Ingrid is creating next year's School Improvement Plan. The numeracy developments and literacy priorities will continue in the new school years plan. Ingrid is in the process of creating an online survey that will ask children, staff and parents to think about what our priorities for improvement should be. The survey won't be overly onerous and all feedback will be valued and appreciated. Ingrid will share this with parent council and is hoping for a good response from parents. Steven agreed that we would easily be able to share it and hopefully get a reasonable response, similar to the last survey via the link on the FOG Facebook Page. There were no further questions in response to the update.

7. Early Learning and Childcare Update

Shaun gave an update on the nursery extension build. The tender process is now complete and there is a preferred bidder that is not drastically over budget. Although this means things could now start to progress quite quickly, it does create some difficulties with short notice to vacate the space. They have some problem solving to do in quite a short space of

time before school staff break up for summer. Phase 1 remodelling of the existing building (art and music room wing) could begin in the first week of the summer holidays. This part of the build could be complete within 16 weeks so part of nursery may be able to move in to this space after the tattie holidays (by January at the latest). The vacated space would be given back to the school. The extension part of the build would then begin followed by some final remodelling of the existing nursery. It is hoped work will be complete by summer 2022.

COVID guidance remains unchanged and children are still in their bubbles. Shaun is expecting an update to guidelines later this month that should help inform planning for next session. Staff are looking at different operational models since the nursery is growing in size, it is thought that continuing to operate in smaller groups may be beneficial for the children's wellbeing. Parents will be part of the consultation and self-evaluation process. Transition to P1 is a bit different again this year as COVID guidance restricts what is possible. Bubbles in nursery mean that some of the children that are going in to P1 together don't know each other that well. Nursery Staff have been taking the bairns into the P1 learning spaces when the current P1 bairns are out and the bairns have also been busy making books. Nursery Staff will be available in the first few weeks of the new school year to help with the P1 transition. For the first time ever the nursery will be operating over the summer holidays with all year round children attending. It will however, be closed for the first 3 weeks for cleaning.

Shaun continues to spend half his time at Glaitness and the other half at the new Willow Tree Nursery. This is a temporary arrangement for Shaun and he hopes to be fully back at Glaitness in the future. Anne Marie and Natasha have been seconded to Willow Tree for 2 years. Erica and Karen lead have taken on more leadership roles at Glaitness. Shaun has spent the past two days interviewing for vacant temporary Early Years Practitioners. Nyree is leaving her post as she is moving away and further recruitment will be needed.

The nursery bairns have been happily developing the area at Keelylang and have started growing a few experimental bits in the new polycrub. They will continue to develop this further next session with plans to involve people from the community. Steven suggested contacting Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) or the Men's Shed who might be able to offer expertise. Barbara suggested the charity group behind Tankerness Gardens might be willing to be involved once restrictions allow. The bairns in bubble one are very delighted about their new found fame following their chance meeting with the Royals! Many of the bairns were also please to be invited this week to try out the soft-play at the Garden Centre before it re-opens to the general public.

8. Library Update (Tesco Award)

The Tesco money has now been spent mostly on buying new books. Steven received a final ask with a list of health and wellbeing books that would take us £57 over amount received. Folk were happy for these books to be purchased. Ingrid thanked the parent council for their help with funding the update to the library to include a wider range of books that would help motivate the bairns to read. Steven would email the school to confirm and this item could now be closed.

9. Treasurers Update

The bank balance is a healthy £4877.82 with most stuff having now come off. The new equipment for the sensory room has begun arriving in school and the cost of this will still need to be taken from the bank balance. Ingrid thanked the parent council for agreeing to fund this. Steven said the school lottery is helping to maintain a regular income (estimated to be in the region of £1200 per year). Fundraising will be put on hold until the new school year. Barbara agreed it would be better to have something to fundraise for rather than to ask folk for money at the moment if we don't really need it.

10. AOCB

Steven asked if there was any update on the resumption of extracurricular activities by OIC, as requested by Emma McConnachie who had to give apologies for the meeting. Lorna Kemp will be leaving the netball coaching as her daughter moves on to KGS. Emma and Lorna are looking out for volunteers. Helen said she had received an email from Picky to say that we could provisionally book 2 badminton courts for September (that's all that is currently available due to social distancing restrictions with the gym, group classes). Steven thought it would be good to go ahead and provisionally book these so we had our foot in the door as other clubs/groups would be doing the same. If it turns out the space available to us was unsuitable or not worth the cost we could always cancel the booking in September when we know what restrictions are still in place. Others agreed with this and Helen said she would email Picky back to provisionally book.

Benches – These were now complete and in the playground. It would be good if a thank you could be sent to Robert Budge for donating the wood.

Karen asked about parent bulletins. Ingrid confirmed bulletins will still be shared with parents – sometimes they are still working through things or waiting on confirmation about COVID guidance before she is able to send updates out to parents.

11. Correspondence

No correspondence received.

12. Date of Next Meeting – AGM Thursday 2nd September (Vscene)

13. Closure of Meeting

Meeting closed – 20:00pm.

Action Log 2020-2021			
No:	Owner	Action	Date Complete
1.	SJ	<p>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. Possibility of doing this before Christmas still, to be discussed at next meeting. 25/08/20. On Hold Due to Covid19. 30/09/20. Still on Hold – 18/11/20</p> <p>Other FOGS fundraising ideas – book sale, bingo, quiz, Cube/game show. On Hold due to Covid19. Possibility to do some fundraising virtually, such as the quiz. To be discussed further at the next meeting. 25/08/20. To be discussed out with the meeting through Messenger. 30/09/20. David suggested hosting a virtual pub quiz. 18/11/20</p> <p>03/06/21 – remains on hold due to COVID, fundraising may be easier to arrange when social gatherings are allowed hopefully in the new school year. Also need to have a focus for spending rather than asking for money for it to sit in FoG bank account, particularly during a time where people may have less financial security due to the pandemic.</p>	
	SJ	<p>Treasurer’s Update – Still waiting for online banking 18/11/20</p> <p>Still waiting for online banking, may have to change a few things to make it work. 20.01.21</p> <p>03/06/21 – Online banking function not possible with RBS. Other banks not currently taking on new club/society accounts at present due to Covid. Audit of the accounts still pending.</p>	
Recently Completed Actions			