

FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL
Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7pm
(Virtual Meeting via VScene)

Present:

Steven Johnston (Chair)
Katy Firth (P1/2 HL Rep)
Karen Rorie (P1/2HL & P6/7T Rep)
Barbara Brown (P3 Rep)
Ola Slater (P4 Rep)
Alice Peace (P4 Rep)
Emma McConnachie (P6/7F Rep)
Donna Reid (Parent + Minute Taker)
Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)
Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)
Helen Killeen (Business Manager)

Apologies

None received

1. Opening of the Meeting

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies of Absence

As above.

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 4th November.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 4th November 2021. Amendment Emma McConnachie - P6/7F Rep only.

4. Action Log Update

1. Fundraising Ideas– Largely remains on hold due to COVID. Item is on the agenda to be discussed.
2. Online Banking – Item is on the agenda to be discussed.

5. Outdoor Education

Steven, Ingrid and Helen met with Chris Jex to discuss Outdoor Education opportunities for bairns in Orkney. Trips south have been discouraged by OIC. Ingrid explained the reasons for this are not all COVID related. There has been a big evaluation of outdoor education in and out with Orkney. This looked at number of things including the purpose of trips, considering experiences bairns would get by regularly exploring their own local environment - so not always needing to go South. Increasing costs (especially transport), difficulties with insurance, staffing, inclusiveness of trips are other factors that have to be considered.

Steven feels it is important that the message from OIC is shared widely with parents so the theory behind decisions is explained and to ensure consistency in opportunities for all bairns in Orkney schools. Parents had no objections to FOG writing to James Wylie for clarification on this matter.

The current P6's will have a 2 day outdoor education experience in June at a cost of £60 per pupil. The current P5's will have a 3 day outdoor education experience in Sept (when they are in P6) at a cost of £90 per pupil. Ingrid confirmed there is no P7 trip for any bairns in Orkney this year unless they haven't previously had a P6 experience. Parent Council agreed that they will continue to part fund outdoor education experiences as they have done in the past. Helen thought the reduction in cost for parents had previously been 50% from parent council and 50% school fund. Parents are then asked to pay the remainder. Emma and Karen thought that giving plenty notice and offering parents the opportunity to pay in instalments would be helpful. Helen said paying in instalments had been offered for residential trips previously. Ingrid thought this would be a good idea for future trips and outdoor experiences going forward. If families can't afford to pay then it may be possible to use PEF money to ensure experiences are equally accessible and inclusive.

6. Head Teachers Update

Ingrid said children and staff are settling back into term three well, though there continues to be challenges with staff absence. A parent update is ready to be sent out tomorrow. Ingrid has met with the Pupil Contribution Groups made up of children from the p6/7 classes. The bairns think they have been improving their skills in leadership and time management, taking more responsibility, and being more creative. There are seven groups in total. Glaitness Ambassadors, Charities Committee, Eco Group, Health and Wellbeing Group, Junior Road Safety Officers, Drop Everything And Read and the Resources Group. Last term each of the groups took part in various activities including an Anti-Bullying assembly, selling Eco-friendly pens, COP 26 assembly, handing out reflectors, and organising Children in Need. The charities group took items to the foodbank that parents donated for the reverse advent calendar before Christmas. Alan Scott gave the children a tour of the foodbank and answered their questions. The resources group were pleased they managed to get some free items from Restart Orkney to help top up the scrap store. This term the Eco group are planning to plant a flower garden, the Health and Wellbeing group are planning events for Children's Mental Health Week and the D.E.A.R group are launching a reading campaign. The Ambassadors will be helping lead the Orkney Matters Project with the aim of collecting children's views and presenting these in a creative form to be displayed in the Pier Arts Centre.

P4 candle enterprise just before Christmas had been very successful. They made just over £1000 profit from selling their winter snuggles candles. They are planning to use the money they made to buy a set of Kapla blocks (STEM resource), some small resources for the playground and they would also like to donate a bit to the inclusive Orkney charity.

School Improvement Plan Priorities

Health and Wellbeing: In addition to the pupil groups all children in P4-7 completed the Glasgow Motivation Wellbeing profile. This is a questionnaire that samples views of what pupils think about school. The profile gives children the chance to reflect on their feelings and experiences. It is useful tool to support tracking and monitoring of the wellbeing of children and young people. Staff have also been working on the Zones of Regulation, a toolkit for helping children to understand and manage their emotions.

Literacy & Numeracy – Staff have been taking part in Numicon Training and have had 4 online sessions so far. The online training helps staff to discover new activities and approaches and provides opportunity to work collegiately to continue to develop learning and teaching in maths. PEF money pays for some of the additional staffing we have at Glaitness. There has been some extra COVID fund money this year but there has been some difficulty finding people to fill vacancies. In the past few weeks 3 new support for learning assistants and an additional full-time teacher started. Aoife Donnelly is providing targeted support for small groups to help give them a peedie boost. This fulltime teaching post is only funded until March and school are keen to find out whether it will possible to extend this. New resources have been purchased including a new set of phonic reading books and materials to support the teaching of maths. Money has also been spent on a set of i-pads and charging station at a cost of around £6600. Sumdog subscription has been renewed at a cost of around £1000. Dyslexia Screening and PECS Training for a staff member in one of the support classes has also come from PEF money. Ingrid said the PEF funding has to be spent before the end of the financial year they wait to find out how much they are allocated for the next financial year.

Parents Evenings are due to be held again before the end of this term. Ingrid would like to know whether the virtual meetings are something that parents would like to try again or whether folk would prefer some kind of written report. Parents in the meeting preference is for face to face meetings rather than reading a report as it gives the opportunity to have a two way conversation. Ingrid asked about sampling the views of parents more widely by either conducting a short a survey or by the office ladies randomly choosing parents to contact by phone. Katy suggested reps could ask around in the playground to gather folk's thoughts. Steven and Ingrid agreed this would be a good way to get feedback and views from more parents.

7. Early Learning and Childcare Update

The remodelling part of the nursery build (phase 1) is complete and has been handed over. Children are now using the new space and the existing nursery space at the other end of the school building. The children are still in bubbles and staff feel this is a better way to plan and organise the bairns learning. The new space is big and bright and looks very different even though it's the same footprint as before. The children are really enjoying learning in their new bright and light space. They have been able to purchase some real tools and workbenches and now have space to use resources that provide real first hand experiences for the bairns. Karen continues to lead and develop outdoor learning. She is establishing links with community partners, including St Colms to further develop the Keeylang site making use of the polycrub. They are hoping to be able to hold a practical day up there in the Easter holiday if COVID rules allow. Nursery has also been involved in some research with Moray House part of Edinburgh University. [Froebelian Futures](#) is an early years programme researching the impact and benefits of real life experiences.

Shaun thinks that the outside build (phase 2) is progressing well, blocks and windows are being put in at the moment. There is a yellow and teal theme running through the new nursery. Shaun and Ingrid have a meeting to check if they are still on track to finish the extension and move into phase 3 (the remodelling of the existing nursery) in the new school year. There is also a meeting planned to discuss access to the courtyard and outside spaces.

COVID guidance hasn't changed much for ELCC and they are still in similar position as before following all the mitigations. Shaun said they are still experiencing some staffing difficulties with absences this term but have been able to reintroduce 2 year old provision, increased numbers of sessions, and are not having to turn people away due to increased capacity. The extension will benefit children and the community at large. Increased capacity is required to accommodate all the new houses in the catchment area. Steven agrees that the build is great for the school and community but raises the point that there may still be capacity problems in the future as the nursery bairns get older and need to move up through the school.

8. Treasurer's Update

Steven advised that the bank balance is currently around £4000. There are still some bills to pay to the Picky for extra-curricular sports - around £600. The school lottery continues to generate a regular source of income. Some people who have had small wins have donated the money back into parent council fund. Steven and Gemma have been looking into moving bank as it is difficult to keep paying for things by cheque. They would like an account that allows online banking and think they have finally found an option in Virgin Money (formally Clydesdale Bank) who are taking on new clubs and society accounts again. This is an appealing option that Steven and Gemma are keen to pursue. The account still has safety checks as an alert is sent to 2 people when making transactions. Steven asked if anyone had any objections to them moving the bank account. Everyone is happy for this to proceed. Steven is keen for the accounts to be audited as this requirement is written in the constitution. This will be arranged so that there is a statement letter at the AGM.

9. Fundraising

Fundraising has largely been on hold due to COVID. Steven thinks it is better to fundraise for a particular project or reason rather than more generally. He asked if folk had anything in mind that they think we should be fundraising for. Ingrid confirmed that she was still waiting to hear back from Scottish Seafarms regarding her application for funding for the courtyard. At the moment she has been told the application is in review, she is keen to know if they are needing any further information and will follow this up. She thinks developing outdoor play spaces would be a good focus for fundraising. She also suggested speaking to pupil groups to find out what they think.

10. Extra-curricular Sports update

The school had been contacted by a parent who was looking for a refund following cancellation of a badminton training session. It is difficult to write individual cheques and he wonders about the fairness of this on folk who don't request a refund. Folk thought it might be possible to reduce the fee next term as this would avoid having to issue individual refunds. Steven thought this could be a good solution and would speak to Linda in the office about this.

Emma – netball is going well and training continues on Mondays. She has now invited P5's to attend from February and there seems to have been a good response. They are a week into the league. Glaitness has 2 teams one in each league. Orkney fun 5's have workshops running next Wed/Thurs that Emma, Gina and possibly Helen will attend.

There had been some concerns raised by parents about the selection process and inclusion at football. Steven and Ingrid had met previously to sort out a specific difficulty that had been raised. Everyone is keen for there to be an inclusive and friendly atmosphere at all extra-curricular sports clubs. This means making sure that the selection process is fair and that due consideration is given to how team selection is relayed to the bairns. Ingrid feels it can be very difficult as folk give up their own time to help out with the clubs. Emma agreed that it must be tricky for football especially as it is such a popular choice and there are always more players than there are spaces in the team. She thinks it is important to consider what is put in the letters that are issued when bairns sign up so that they know there is a chance that although they attend training (this is what they are paying for) there is likely to be more children than there are spaces to play in a team in the league. Steven thought this was a good point and thinks it is important to continue to work with coaches on this.

11. Correspondence

None received.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday 27th April 2022.

13. Meeting closed 8:30pm.

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> <p>02/09/2021 – New guidelines coming out in a couple of weeks' time could allow for family photos to take place in the near future. It was mentioned about holding a disco again this year for fundraising, but again, new guidelines will let us know if this possible.</p> <p>04/11/2021 – No change.</p> <p>27/01/2022 – No change</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> <p>02/09/2021 – Still not able to get online banking, people can pay into the account, but we cannot pay out using BACS etc yet. Audit of the accounts still pending, but an auditor has been found.</p> <p>04/11/2021 – No change</p> <p>27/01/2022 – members agreed to transfer account to Virgin Money who are able to provide online banking and are now taking on new club/society accounts.</p>	

Recently Completed Actions			
