

FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL (PARENT COUNCIL)

Tuesday, 21 March 2023 7pm

(In person meeting with V-scene link)

Present:

Steven Johnston (Chair)
Emma McConnachie (minuting)
Inga Glackin
Chrystall McBaron
Michelle Kennedy
Karen Rorie
Kerri Bickmore
Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)
Sharon Muir (Deputy Head Teacher)
Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)

Online:

Katy Firth
Kate Towsey

1. **Opening** of meeting and welcome
2. **Apologies** for Absence noted from: *Maggie Henning, Barbara Brown, David Johnson, Ruth Smith, Helen Killeen*
3. **Approval** of Previous Minutes 19th January 2023: *agreed with no changes.*
4. **Action Log** Updated. Re *recruitment of new netball coach volunteers. Active Schools could be approached for assistance, and Kerri is going to speak to Magnus & Katrina Garson to see if any help available. Class photos booked for 17 May.*
5. **Head Teacher's Update:**
Staffing – New clerical post currently advertised after departure of Linda Donaldson. Helen Killeen is taking a career break so Business Manager post will be advertised for 2 year fixed term (Helen will remain in post until new appointment made). Shannon Tait is returning from maternity leave early May. Paige Archibald is going on maternity leave. Kayleigh Peace will continue in post to cover Paige's maternity leave when Shannon returns. Support for Learning Assistant posts currently vacant. There are difficulties with staff retention for fixed term posts. There is a staff meeting next week to look at staffing structures.

Pupil voice – Rights Respecting School Award – Bronze award achieved. The children will be spreading the news across the different classes. Action plan for silver award is done for next term and beyond. There will be a noticeboard put up outside the staff room which will share news relevant across the school. This has been a really positive experience for the children.

More parents are encouraged to return the survey done by the Pupil Ambassadors - Steven will promote this through the FOG Facebook page. The children have been doing walkthroughs of the school identifying different areas for improvement such as the cosmetics of the building including lighter areas, painting, furniture etc. There is also lots of outdoor space to be developed. New screens have been put in classrooms, and the Buddies were praised for their help and support across the classes. There are plans for Autism Awareness Week too.

The Health and Wellbeing Group are working on Wellbeing baskets for next term will be put in every classroom, items being decided by the pupils ensuring they are appropriate for the age of the children of that class. They would like to come to the next meeting to discuss this which was agreed.

P6/7 Art Project: Parents were invited along to view the exhibition the children had put together which was well attended. The school are looking to plan another open day, similar to the Christmas fair.

Donation offer: Caro Stockan's mum has offered to make a donation to the school specifically to be spent on children with ASN. The kind gesture was very much appreciated. This will be paid into the FOG account but only used for the purpose it is intended for, after the school have confirmed the intended purpose if feasible and appropriate. What the money will be spent on will be discussed at a later date.

Net Zero Heriot Watt programme – Kate provided update. The children have been promoting the Walk to School day planned for Friday 24th March. The car park will be closed and the children will decorate it on what it could look like if there were no cars there every day. The 3 Heriot Watt students will be around in the afternoon with parents/carers welcome to come to the school to learn more and share their views.

The work will continue after Friday and data will be collected on how many are choosing to walk or cycle to school. The children have been very passionate about the project.

6. Early Learning & Childcare Update

Nursery Registration - Similar to this year, 90 children registered in total including some from out with the catchment area. 38 children are registered for P1. Some have deferred, choosing to stay in nursery for another year so will be looking to cater for these older children in the nursery going forward. Some transition work has already started, mainly for the ASN children at present. Shaun confirmed that having lunch in the hall will be part of the transition for nursery children.

Development work – This is ongoing. Last year's polytunnel was a huge success so looking to develop that again this year. Looking at changing lunch times following feedback from Alison Clark who did some training on this recently, and provided ideas on how to use lunch times as an experience for slower paced learning.

7. **Treasurer's Update:** Steven updated that the bank balance is £7786.52. Lottery income is generating around £1600 income per year. The Blue Door took in £3080. It was noted that our current Treasurer Gemma will be leaving the post at the end of the school year when her youngest moves up to KGS so will need to fill the vacancy. This will be discussed at the next meeting to allow for a handover.

8. Fundraising

- 8.1. The development of outdoor spaces is to be discussed and agreed when pupils feed back some suggestions.
- 8.2. P7 Residential Trip - P7 parents had provided the raffle prizes for The Blue Door, but the raffle money was not held separately and is included in the overall total. Discussion around how much to contribute from FOG funds towards the trip. There was suggestions of £40-£50 per child as this should be affordable for the foreseeable future with the current level of income. Sharon and Ingrid are going to look at how much FOG has contributed to previous trips as a percentage of the cost of the trip before a final decision is made. The Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council donation is due at the end

of March but would not be available for those pupils out with the catchment area.

8.3. There is further fundraising planned by the P7 parents including a Gin tasting night on 22 April and bag packing in Tesco. Tickets for the Gin night are slow sales, and this is at threat of being cancelled if there isn't more interest. Parents and FOGS to promote this further.

8.4. A new application is to be submitted for the Blue Door by Steven. As bank balance is healthy, there is consideration for the current Blue Door funds to assist towards the P7 residential trips for the next 3 years, by which time we will hopefully have another slot.

8.5. Magic Little Grants is open for applications which can support various different things so looking to submit an application for this after missing out on recent Hardship Funding.

9. **Extra-curricular sport:** Netball – final week of league on Saturday 25th March, there are then 2 final tournaments in April, one for P6/7's and one for P5's. Last training session next Monday. Alice taking over as coach from April, and may need a parent helper rota if unable to get regular help each week. Thanks to Joseph who covered Monday training at the beginning of March, he's been a great support to the netballers when needed.

Badminton is due to finish training next week and football is finished now.

Inga highlighted the effort each of the coaches put in, from their own time and the group agreed a formal thank you with gifts for the volunteers should be carried out.

The leavers assembly could be an opportunity to do this.

10. AOCB

10.1. **Individual photos** – Michelle has contacted Fiona Scott and Kevin Shearer who both offered packages for individual photographs for Christmas. Both are £45 per session for 5 images, but Kevin offered the higher commission at 34% back to FOG, so it was agreed to book Kevin to do this. Venue is to be confirmed, but Kevin has done this for other groups using the King Street Halls. Shaun was going to look into the possibility of using the nursery. Steven suggested doing a poll on the Facebook page at the start of the new school year if we needed to gauge interest.

10.2. **School Uniform** – This continues to be promoted across the school. A recent Connect Survey promoted removing branding to make it more accessible, and can continue to be used out of school. It was also noted that children should not be punished for not wearing school uniform.

10.3. **Traffic concerns** - Cheryl noted it was nice to see the Police monitoring the traffic and what a difference it had made that day. Thanks to Ola for arranging this with the police.

10.4. Michelle asked for advance warning of meetings to ensure parents can be notified in time.

11. Correspondence: *None*

12. Date of next meeting agreed: **Wednesday, 17 May 2023 at 7pm.**

13. Closure of Meeting at 21:00

Action Log 2022/23			
No:	Owner	Action	Date Due/Complete
3	SJ/EM	Recruit new netball coach volunteers. Alice joining. Continue to try for another. 21/03: to reach out to KGS, past pupils and netball orkney for volunteers.	By 2023/24 season
9	SJ	Add <i>2023/24 P1 handbook</i> as an agenda item for last meeting of 2022/23 to allow parents to provide suggestions on useful content	On agenda 17.05.23
10	SJ	Add <i>Sports Day</i> to agenda in new year to discuss approach for 2023.	On agenda 17.05.23
Recently Completed Actions			
1	IR/BB	Arrange Citizens Advice presence at parents evening to help parents with finances. Also ensure uptake of free school means so that the school gets the right level of Pupil Equity Fund money.	22nd + 24th Nov.
2	IR/SJ	Arrange meeting between P7 parents and school to discuss residential trip	Oct-22

4	SJ	Thank sponsors of football/netball via Facebook	Oct 22
5	HK/GD	Purchase Shuttlecocks for badminton training	Sep 22
6	SJ	Gather volunteers to organise Halloween Disco	Oct 22
7	SJ	Contact Rotary Club to see if FoGS might provide some hot drinks and food on bonfire night – not happening.	Sep 22
8	SJ/school admin	Advertise lottery to try and gather more participants	Sep+Oct 22
11	SJ	Reminder to parents about conduct in private social media groups and to be respectful.	FB message posted
12	All	Arrange to wrap Christmas books once they arrive.	Done.
13	Emma	Create small group to co-ordinate Blue Door stint	Due w/c 23/01/23
14	All	Photos. Class photos might be possible. Individual/sibling photos more difficult. Need to explore option.	Mar 23