

## FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL (PARENT COUNCIL)

Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 7pm

(In person meeting with V-scene link)

### Present:

Steven Johnston (Chair)  
Barbara Brown (minuting)  
Emma McConnachie  
Michelle Kennedy  
Karen Rorie  
Kerri Liddle  
Jenna Johnston  
Catriona Tulloch  
Kate Towsey (Teacher)  
Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)  
Sharon Muir (Deputy Head Teacher)  
Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)

1. **Opening** of meeting and welcome
2. **Presentation from P7 Health & Wellbeing Group – Wellbeing baskets**

Ella and Ayla from P7 joined the meeting and gave a very interesting presentation about the wellbeing baskets which have been made available to all classes and in some shared areas of the school. They challenged us to identify the different parts of the brain and explained the role of the different sections. This was followed by a test for our hearing and for our sense of smell. The baskets contain a number of different sensory items to help pupils to calm down including breathing exercise cards, fidget toys, water timers and activity books.
3. **Apologies** for Absence noted from: Inga Glackin, Chrystall McBaron, Maggie Henning, Ruth Smith, Cheryl Gould and Katy Firth
4. **Approval** of Previous Minutes 21 March 2023: agreed with no changes.
5. **Action Log:** All items on agenda apart from netball coaches. Only 1 coach will remain come the new school year and there is also a need for referees. Emma McConnachie will contact Active Schools to see if they can provide any help – either by providing coaches or offering training for parents interested. The school will check whether all balls and netball T-shirts have been returned and chase if not.
6. **Election of Treasurer:** Barbara Brown agreed to take on the Treasurer role

- P1 handbook:** A discussion was had around what to include in the P1 handbook. The school have planned a welcome letter and a handbook with photos in it of the main entrance for P1, the cloakroom area, the class teacher etc. A video will also be shared featuring current P1 children showing the entrance and how it looks to come into the school. In person meetings are also planned nearer the end of the term for parents of new P1s. There will be 38 new P1s joining the school. Nursery has just started taking groups of kids into the school and talking to the children about starting P1.

Some information is still unknown at this point – for example what the exact timetable will be for art/PE etc. It was also discussed how the school lunch menu would be shared for the first week as it can take time for parents to be added to the Seasaw for the class. The school will consider ways to make the lunch menu available in advance to the parents.

- Sports Day (Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June):** The Pupil Ambassadors have been deciding how the day will run. The grass area inside the Picky track has been booked and 6 activities will be offered along the lines of “beat the goalie” and “throw the wellie”. There will be races including a tattie and spoon race. P1-3 will have the morning and then P4-7 will be in the afternoon. The older group will include a relay race on the track. Near the end of the day the cup will be presented to the winning house – Graine, Ayre or Corse. Parent helpers will be required due to the number of activities on offer and the school will send out a message to ask for volunteers.

- Head Teacher’s Update:**

**Inspection** - The inspection is to take place over 3 days – 30<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June. It will cover Learning/Teaching/Assessment, Attainment and Safeguarding. The school submit a self-evaluation form in advance. The inspectors are keen to have surveys completed by parents and the link for that has been distributed but uptake has been low. The school will send out a reminder for this. The survey is not to be shared on a public Facebook page so cannot put it on the FOGS page but parent reps can share within closed message groups. The inspection will cover the school and the nursery although separate teams will be sent – 4 inspectors for the school and 3 for the nursery.

The nursery inspection is a joint one with the Care Inspectorate. The inspectors have arranged to speak to Steven as the Chair of the Parent Council. If anyone has any comments they want to share they can pass these to Steven. Parents also have the chance to speak to the inspectors themselves if they indicate on the survey that they would like that.

**Staffing** – A date has been set for the Business Manager post interviews. Shortlisting is being done for the Support for Learning Assistant post. A front office vacancy is due to be shortlisted soon as is a temporary Additional Support Needs teaching post. The Principal Support for Learning post is being advertised.

**Class Allocations** – these are being worked on for 23/24. There are expected to be 208 pupils next year (not including nursery) and consideration is being given to 8 classes with 5 ASN classes.

**Mobile Phones/Tech policy** – there has been an increase in mobile phones coming to school which has caused a couple of issues. Some parents have called for mobile phones to be banned in the school. Some discussion was had around whether phones may be necessary for travelling to school and home or for after school activities and therefore may be required to be carried although not needed during school hours. There was general agreement that mobiles should not be used during school hours. It was agreed that a council policy on this would be useful to have a uniform approach across schools. It would be useful if the parent council would ask the Council for this.

#### **10. Early Learning & Childcare update**

**Staff** – nursery is to get a new Early Years Practitioner from August.

**Health & Wellbeing** – Nursery is to hold a Health and Wellbeing Day in June – details will be shared with parents

**Reviewing Vision Values and Views** – Shaun carried out a consultation exercise with the Parent Council to gather views to feed into the review of the nursery Vision, Values and Views.

11. **Treasurer's update** - The account current has a balance of £6,962. The school will discuss the outside space with the pupils and feed back ideas on improvements that this money could fund.

12. **Fundraising – Professional Photos.** It was agreed that the nursery family room can be used for professional photos. Provisional dates of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November were agreed and a poll needs to be created to gauge interest from parents. A plain background and a Christmas theme one will be available. Class photos are being arranged separately by the school and should take place in June.

**13. Extra-curricular sport.**

Netball has finished for the year – the team reached the semi-finals of the cup which was really good. Football only has the Gilmour shield still to go. Badminton has struggled to have enough volunteers for the sessions – a couple of parents have covered most of them. There was discussion about having a rota for next year to ensure enough adults were present for each one.

There was positive feedback from parents about the free taster sessions offered at the start of each sport. Steven will check with Helen whether the subs collected covered the cost of the hall hire etc.

It was agreed that the volunteers will be invited to the Leavers Ceremony on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm.

14. **P7 Leavers Disco** – a parent had asked whether this was something that Glaitness would be holding. This is not something the school has ever held in the past but parents have arranged a beach party in previous years. The intention would be to do that again this year. This is informal and not arranged via the school.

15. **AOCB** – Fundraising has gone well for the P7 trips. Some money is still to come in from a raffle from PoundStretcher so the final total is not known.

16. No correspondence

17. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 6 September at 7pm**

18. The meeting closed

Approved