

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Longniddry Primary School Parent Council Meeting</u> <u>29th November 2017</u></p> <p><u>Present:</u></p> <p>Ross Boyce (Chair), Alan McNeill (Vice Chair), Lynn Kemp (Treasurer), Jenny Sully (Nursery pm), Esther Hurrell (Nursery am), Gemma Luke (P1), Katie Medlam (P2), Suzanne Low (P2/3), Joanne Chatwin (P3), Claire Verri (P5), Joan Fairfull (P6)</p> <p><u>In Attendance:</u></p> <p>Sheona Skinner (Head Teacher), Stephanie MacFadyen (Deputy Head Teacher), Cllr Lachlan Bruce, Veronica Brown (Clerk)</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u></p> <p>Cllr Fiona O'Donnell, Cllr Willie Innes</p>	Action
1	<p><u>Matters Arising / Minutes of Last Meeting</u></p> <p>Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting on 4th October 2017.</p> <p>Proposed: Ross Seconded: Lynn</p> <p>Sheona has carried out a Parental Survey on homework as an action point from last meeting. The outcome was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much homework 30 • About right amount of homework 44 • Not enough homework 7 <p>Sheona said that this gives a good indication that parents and pupils are quite happy with the homework at the moment and will re-visit the expectations at a later date.</p>	
2	<p><u>Winter Wonderland</u></p> <p>The Winter Wonderland will be held on Saturday 2nd December 9am - 1pm. The entry fee is £1 at front door and children get in free.</p> <p>Sheona said that lots of preparation and hard work has gone into this year's preparations and asked if there is anything last minute that needs fixed? Cllr Bruce offered to help out if anything was needed and with lots of volunteers, it should be manageable and everyone is really looking forward to it. Sheona will send a home baking reminder. Lynn to let her know if more floats are needed as she organised monies for the tables.</p> <p>There is a raffle with lots of prizes; one of them is an extra large teddy. Other stalls include a treasure hunt and lucky dip, jam jar tombola, face painting, hook a duck, home baking, burgers, tea and coffee, chocolate tombola and children's Christmas crafts.</p> <p>The Market Traders License is £140 for anyone having a Christmas Fayre with outside traders attending. Cllr Bruce said that there has been lots of criticism about this and that others have split the bill for the stallholders and ask them to pay the extra at the end of the day. The School and Parent Council will cover it so no extra charge this year.</p> <p>There hasn't been much advertising so far and Steph said that she would print out leaflets and get helpers from School and walk around the village to distribute.</p>	SS

3	<p><u>Head Teacher Report</u></p> <p>Staffing update – A permanent full time teacher has successfully been appointed to share P1 and P6. Sheona and Steph are really pleased with the appointment. Miss Higgins will start in January 2018.</p> <p>The Behaviour Policy has been reviewed and sent out for consultation. Evidence of the parental engagement is on the wall with photos. The review of the homework policy and Anti-bullying policy is underway and will be presented in the springtime.</p> <p>The Education bill was presented at a Head Teacher conference recently with lots of discussions about implications, the new authority structures and the future of our schools. Sheona said that the biggest change is where to turn when seeking advice. Scotland will be divided into Regional Collaboratives with East Lothian Council being part of South East Collaborate which also includes Edinburgh City, Fife, Midlothian and Scottish Borders. Being a small authority, a concern is if our voices will be heard? Ross said that centralising Police Scotland in 2013 did not go well and don't want the same to happen to our Schools. Cllr Bruce said it is unlikely that it will be as easy to just to pick up the phone to speak to the Regional Collaborative when needed, as it is at the moment, speaking to Head of Education Fiona Robertson. John Swinney has announced that this will give more freedom to Head Teachers to make the decisions in the Schools and be more in control of what's going on. Sheona said she and other HT colleagues in East Lothian feel that the system we have works at the moment and there isn't yet a clear plan to accompany the changes, there are lots of unanswered questions and no one knows what the full implications are. It is vital that Parents and Parent Council members engage with the consultation process. There will be a public meeting with Fiona Robertson who will answer any questions on 9th January 2018 and really important that the Parent Council members are there and as many of the wider parent forum, to make a joint response to the Consultation.</p> <p>For the Astroturf, Enjoy Leisure have drafted a letting agreement with terms and conditions where damages are included and anyone renting it will be liable. Anyone who wants to use it can get in touch with Longniddry Villa and must agree to the terms and conditions.</p> <p>Sheona said that there have been some recent damage in the 'time garden' due to vandalism so need to keep an eye on it and the Police are aware also. There is CCTV around school but the system is not currently fully functioning. Sheona has reported this to property maintenance. Cllr Bruce mentioned to speak to the Community Wardens who can also help to keep an eye on it. It is important that the pupils know that the school is a safe place.</p> <p>Finally a really big Thank you to Ross on behalf of Sheona, the staff and the wider parent body for his commitment to the school as a Chair and Parent Council member. Sheona said his support with an number of issues has been very much appreciated.</p>	
4	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>This is Ross last meeting as chair and said that it's been pleasant serving with everyone so thank you very much. Ross is also stepping down as a P4 representative and a replacement is being sourced as still vacant. Gemma said that she is happy to swop to do P4 instead of P1, if it's easier to find a replacement in the younger classes. A new chair will be elected at the next meeting.</p>	
5	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p>	

	<p>The Parent Council Bank balance as of 29th November is £3346.81.</p> <p>Lynn said that Alan is the only signatory on the account and asked for at least one more Parent Council member as a back up. Katie volunteered.</p>	
6	<p><u>Year Stage Issues</u></p> <p>Nursery pm – no issues raised</p> <p>Nursery am – no issues raised</p> <p>P1 – A question was asked about playing football during the breaks. Sheona said that the grass is very muddy and wet at the moment and therefore out of bounds. The Astroturf is still ok to use. Each class has a timetabled slot for the astro but there is no football when the grass is out of bounds.</p> <p>Another concern was that because the pupils can't play football, they have come up with a new game where the pupils themselves pretend to be a football. Sheona will inform the playground assistant to keep an eye out for this.</p> <p>P2 – no issues raised</p> <p>P2/3 – The Bookshop was discussed and Sheona clarified how this works as it's run by volunteers and not by the School itself.</p> <p>P3 – Parking on the zigzags on John Knox Road was discussed, as there are lots of cars and not much space. Sheona said that the police are aware and do spot checks. Lynn also mentioned cars parked on the roundabout and blocking so no other cars can go round. This is especially dangerous in the dark when picking pupils up. Sheona will circulate the zigzag crossing leaflets again and will be taking pupils out to do patrols.</p> <p>P4 – Robust play in the playground was discussed where sometimes pupils hit each other with scooters or stand on the sandpit cover at the start/end of the day. Sheona is aware of this and has spoken to some parents and encouraged them to supervise their children and remind them of the playground rules and to respect the schools values and aims.</p> <p>P5 – no issues raised</p> <p>P6 – no issues raised</p> <p>P7 – A question on how classes are made up in High School and what pupils goes together. Sheona said that Preston Lodge works closely with the Primary Schools for the best solution possible. Combinations that usually don't go together are identified, as are special needs and where possible there would never be a class with only one pupil from the School. The class lists are tweaked after team building and transition days or last minute changes are done. Sheona said that everyone usually ends up having a settled start to High School.</p>	SS
7	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>There was none.</p>	
	<p><u>Dates of Next Meetings</u></p> <p>Parent Council meeting 17th January 2018, 7pm</p> <p>Area Partnership meeting 10th January at 7pm</p> <p>ELAPCM meeting 20th February 2018, 7pm</p>	