



## PINKIE PARENTS MEETING

Pinkie St Peters School

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Present:** Kirsty Sivell (Clerk) Iain Clark (Chair) Susan Harkins (Deputy Chair) Suzanne Douglas, Clare Morley (Treasurer) Cllr Andy Forrest, Shirley Bailey, Morgan Scott

**Staff in Attendance:** Sarah Ogden (Head Teacher) Helen Gordon (Deputy Head Teacher)

**Apologies:** Cllr Stuart Currie

Minutes taken by - Kirsty Sivell

### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Iain welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Previous minutes were approved

### 3. Matters arising from the previous minute

Nothing outstanding

### 4. Fundraising Update (See recent Fundraising Newsletter for up to date info)

#### 4.1 School Fair -

Suzanne is going away during the first 2 weeks of June and as she is the main organiser of the school fair Susan has suggested that this be pushed back towards the end of June, possibly 25<sup>th</sup> to be confirmed. The usual chocolate and bottle tombola stalls will be organised & a raffle with top prizes (still to be confirmed) Susan is also thinking of introducing a used book stall and would appreciate any donations from parents.

#### 4.2 Fundraising Night -

One of the parent's husband's plays in a band called Porkpie and the afterschool club have asked to host a joint fundraising event in June. This will probably be held on a Friday night but more details will follow shortly.

#### 4.3 Marathon Stall -

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016** - the parent council will be hosting a stall selling goodies for spectators & runners which raises money for the school.

#### **4.4 Christmas cards -**

Susan has highlighted that Catherine's youngest daughter will be going up to high school in 2 years time and some planning needs to be done regarding the Christmas cards. Will be looking for a volunteer to take over this and work with Catherine this year to see what is required.

### **5. Pupil Report**

No pupil report going forward - HT would like to encourage people to view the weekly podcasts that the children broadcast which will provide a report of what is going on in school.

### **6. Head Teachers Report**

#### **6.1 Staffing -**

Mrs Simkins is retiring at the end of March and her position is advertised at the moment for the successful candidate to start in August. Mrs Burbanks has started her maternity leave and Mr Marshall is covering her class. Mrs Snowden (support for learning) is due to go on maternity on 29<sup>th</sup> April and a preferred candidate has been shortlisted for her maternity cover. HT has appointed a Nursery Nurse for the nursery and is still currently recruiting for 3 fulltime teachers, one to cover Mrs Simkins, one to backfill Mrs Hunter's position in the nursery and one for an extra class next year which is a new position that has been created. The closing date for these positions is Friday. There are a number of Students in P4 and P5.

#### **6.2 Nurture Room -**

HT has purchased furniture and resources from the cockenzie support base which has recently closed. The nurture room is no co-ordinated with new furniture.

#### **6.3 Outdoor Education -**

HT has met with the outdoor learning team (ELC) and they have agreed to train all staff during the in service day on orienteering. During the course of the year the P5's, P6's & P7's will work in small groups to learn camping skills, water sports, mountain biking etc. The aim is that they will then leave the school having developed skills in outdoor education.

#### **6.4 Puppets -**

HT is hosting a ministerial visit next Tuesday between 3pm-4pm. The primary reason for the visit is to look at the puppets. Helen provided a puppet demonstration for the benefit of the parent council starring Marvin the Mouse. HT reports that the children are responding very positively to the puppets. The visitors are keen to hear about the positive impact of the puppets in school.

### **6.5 Building Work -**

The main build has been pushed back to the end of March. The contractors will be returning during the summer holidays to work on the dance studio.

### **6.6 Walk a mile -**

The walk a mile project has been having a positive impact on the children's health. This has been tweaked slightly so that the children are all going out for 15 minutes per day and the Children have their own running chart and can plot their progress.

### **6.7 Support for learning -**

The results from the supporting for learning block that was started before Christmas have been very positive.

### **6.8 Community Hub Event -**

The community hub event was really successful. HT is thinking of running another community event but would like this to take place when the build is finished and plans to have a grand opening to coincide with the schools 60th birthday.

### **6.9 Teas & Coffee's -**

The numbers of parents attending the tea and coffee sessions are increasing and this is being received well.

### **6.10 Riding of the Marches -**

The school will be decorating the hall and participating in class projects to support the riding of the marches. HT plans to host an exhibition of some sort.

### **6.11 Reading is brow -**

The Reading is brow project has started. Helen Gordon is the literacy coordinator for Pinkie. Helen has just come from a literacy cluster meeting tonight and explains that this has been designed to be a community project so all schools in Musselburgh are involved. Children have been sent home with a book to complete. The books then get cash in for an invitation to an end of project finale after the 15 weeks. No decision has been made on the date or venue yet. More information is on the school website. Chris smith will be doing an extra podcast with the children who will be doing book reviews and recommendations.

### **6.12 Other things -**

The euro quiz is to be held on Wednesday.

The P7 Easter fundraiser on 18<sup>th</sup>.

The P2's river path performance is on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Parents evening is on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The P7 transition is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> April

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

CM provided an update. The current balance is £6210.22. The only recent transaction was a small amount of expenses paid to IC but this still leaves a healthy balance. £1000 is side lined for the playground, £500 for Benmore and the cost to cover the P7 yearbooks. The Parent Council needs to start thinking of what to spend the money on to help support the school. HT has suggested that the PC could help fund the greenhouse. After some discussion the PC has agreed that they could donate funds towards the purchase of the greenhouse and other recent costs. HG would like to make a bid for funds to purchase new digital camera's for all classes (approx £100 each) HG says a great deal of research was made into what type of cameras to buy to ensure they were child friendly. Once HT gets the final figures IC will email round all PC members and make a decision before the next meeting.

## **8. Musselburgh area partnership**

### **8.1 Police Liaison Officer -**

The police liaison officer has been reinstated as from today. The new title for this role is Youth Engagement Officer. HT has some concerns about the shift pattern. IC will feed this back at the next area partnership meeting.

### **8.2 Active Travel -**

A recent consultation was held to look at how to improve cycle routes and pathways in and around Musselburgh. IC is now part of a subgroup that has the task of looking at this. Cllr Forrest is dealing with Taylor Wimpey regarding the creation of the bus shelter and traffic signals at the opening of the new housing estate.

## **9. East Lothian Association of Parent Council Meetings**

The last meeting was cancelled and next meeting is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

A letter has come out to all parent council chairs from Allan Stubbs, Service Manager for roads. The improvement of road safety around schools is a priority in East Lothian. A new matrix system/evaluation has been created for schools. IC confirmed that a traffic regulation order is not suitable for Pinkie school due to the school being located on a main through road. IC will speak to Allan Stubbs to highlight the risks again. IC will write back to the service manager and explain the ongoing issues at pinkie school.

## **10. Wet play/Lunchtimes**

Suzanne has been asked by some parents to get clarification regarding wet play time and lunchtime as some parents have heard that P7's have been supervising classes and teachers are only patrolling the corridors in-between classrooms. HT confirmed that wet play is working well in the individual classrooms instead of in

the gym hall but assures us that P7's are only helping out in the classrooms and not supervising. Teachers are supervising 2 classes and go between 2 classrooms. HT says that this has been working well.

## **11. Toilets**

There are some ongoing concerns about the state of the children's toilets e.g. no soap, doors missing, and one toilet missing part of the wall. There are reports that some children are avoiding using the toilets altogether. HT has asked property maintenance repeatedly to do the repairs and has been told that the parts are on order. Cllr Forrest has asked to see the state of the toilets after the meeting and will contact property maintenance to escalate this issue.