# Parent Forum Meeting Tuesday 24th January 2017, 2pm

Attendees: Susan Hay, Jennifer McCue, Caroline MacLeod, Monique Blair, Dawn Anderson, Aimee Douglas Smith, Mrs Malcolm, Angela Bowman, Ruth MacDonald, Lisa McPherson, Anoushka Frain

# Chairpersons Welcome

Angela Bowman opened meeting welcomed attendees and thanked them for coming. She emphasised that a range of days and times for parent forum meeting have been tested out in an attempt to attract a wider range of parents

# Apologies

Caroline Noble, Bruce Bain, Kelly McLeish, Evelyn Ewen, Donna Snowie, Lynn Reid, Jillian Christie

# Review, Complete & Approve Minutes of Meeting – 19 December

**Toilets:** Meeting with Brian Duthie & Kay MacDonald (Quality Improvement Officer) took place on 19 December to look at the state of the school toilets. They acknowledged that there is an issue with the smell in the boys toilets. However, other schools have toilets in a worse state of repair and are therefore prioritised ahead of Elrick at present. They agreed to look into the cost of reflooring and providing new urinals and the school is waiting to hear back from them. A deep clean of the boys toilets has already taken place but provided no improvement.

The possibility of making a lottery grant application to fund toilet refurbishment, if no action from council, was discussed.

**Parking:** Parking issues on double yellow lines continue to be an issue outside school. Our locally appointed Police Officer has reassured the parent council that registration numbers can be reported to them and they will follow up and take action against persistent offenders.

**Online School Uniform** **Orders** – system working well

**Shell Technology Grant Application** – in progress

**Swim Team Kit** – Apologies from Mrs Elrick, unable to report back at this meeting

**Curriculum Rationale**

ACTION: AB to organise meeting between Claire Livingston and Mrs Robinson

**Group Call:** “Expressions” app to be used to send school messages out to all parents. It will allow multiple members of a family to receive messages. Messages will continue to be sent as email/texts.

To be rolled out at Elrick soon.

# Head Teachers Report

* Mrs Calder leaving at the end of this week. Interviewing next week. Mrs Reid to provide cover.
* Staffing remains an issue across Aberdeenshire and city
* New early years practitioners recruited and will start soon
* Brenda Webster to start as part time administrator on Thursdays & Fridays
* Emma Watson has handed in notice. Position to be advertised.
* Angela Bowman taken up post of Admin assistant
* Mrs Matthews has been in school doing “keeping in touch” days and will return to work sometime next term
* Thanks to Parent Forum for paying for party food for Xmas parties and the Stage Hire for various Christmas performances to parents.
* Nursery Enrolment – this week and next week. Please inform parents with young children that they may now apply to the school.
* National picture and the role of the local authority is changing. Aberdeenshire is part of the “North Alliance” a group of 7 existing local authorities who have been working together to share practice and take forward common themes. The detail of the change is still to be announced. The Government wants to give more autonomy and funding directly to schools. Money from the Pupil Equity fund money which is to be allocated directly to schools to reduce the poverty gap has been announced. The
* Children’s profiles – the children have been working on their Term 2 profiles and classes are uploading them to Glow this week. Parents will receive a message letting them know how to access their child’s profile.
* Parents evenings to take place at the end of the spring term. Parents will be offered 15 minute slots this time as feedback from parents suggested 10 mins was not always sufficient.
* Shindigathon – Scottish assemblies and events taking place between 23 Jan – 3 Feb. Children may wear tartan on Friday 3 February if they have something suitable at home.
* P6 currently away on Glenshee ski trip.
* P6 to go curling in Feb & March
* P5 swimming sessions next term
* February in-service days will include a half day workshop with James Nottingham, founder of the Learning Pit
* Occasional Days – discussion on how Elrick Parents would prefer these to fall both throughout the year and specifically over the February half term. General consensus of meeting was that a complete week (Mon – Fri) at February would be the preference of parents. Discussion also around a preference for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen holidays to coincide. Mrs Malcolm to report parent view back to cluster meeting.
* Bullying – Parent enquiry about what the school does about bullying. Suggestion to have a specific discussion on school bullying policy at the next PF meeting.

# Treasurers Report

Income: M&S Bag Pack £720

Xmas Jumper £310

Xmas Disco £640

P5 Merry Market Loan repayment £430

P5 Merry Market Interest £10

Expenditure: Xmas Party Food £200

Xmas Tree £70

Stage Hire £400

Bank Balance sitting around £5500

To fund Funday we would like balance to have around £6000 to cover purchasing and floats

# Grass Slopes at the back of school

Concerns from parents that children are going on the grass slope behind school. Some parents standing on the top path with dogs at pick up time have been observed calling for their children to come to them up the grass slope. Parents are asked to remind their children to use the steps and path to reach the top path. Children will be reminded at assemble of the school rules and safety issues regarding assess to the grass slope. There was some discussion around planting a shrub border to discourage access onto the grass slope.

# Help in the Community

A parent has raised the suggestion of having a food/clothing bank at the school. Discussion centred around the current facilities in Westhill, specifically the services offered by the Community church. Suggestions to collect for a food bank once a term were considered reasonable. Running a Bring & Buy table of used school uniform on parent evenings was also discussed.

# Fundraising Events

* Dons Day Out – Sat 11th March
* Funday – Saturday 20 May – help required for the organisation of Funday. If you are able to help please contact Angela Bowman
* Race Night at Ashvale Fish Restaurant - June
* Bag2school
* Easter Disco – need to arrange for water during the disco to be served without use of kitchen. Buy our own water jugs. Perhaps Easter eggs as part of take-home snack.

ACTION: Angela Bowman to organise Fundraising meeting

# Close

Next Meeting Friday 10 March 9am