**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:** Mike Low, Jemma Buxton, Alistair McLennan, Michelle Shek, Elma Wood, Mrs Hughes, Mrs McLaughlin, Paula Buchan, Charlie Moynagh

**APOLOGIES:** Louise Thorburn, Vicky Paterson, Aimee Urquhart, Mrs Morrison, Rhona Stewart, David Inglis, Julie Allan, Mrs Campbell

**STANDING ITEMS**

1. **Minutes from last meeting**

**ACTIONS carried forward** from 27th November

* Aimee -Parent council poster/info sheet to be made noticeable in playground.
* Michelle to email Christine McLennan re Parent Council funding – tell her what we’re to engage the parent forum and how we’re using the Aberdeenshire Council constitution.

**UPDATES from 27th November**

* **Atlases and Dictionaries** have arrived – they were being reprinted and because of the delay, received a discount – cost is £449.25
* **PE Mats** have arrived and being used
* **Solar panels** to be installed Feb/March and will be sited at the back of the school towards the caterpillar nursery. Scaffolding will be used during installation, but this will not impact on the children. Panel showing electricity generated will be visible to staff and pupils.
* **Dinner Dudes**, now issuing certificates (1 per day) instead of stickers and these are being handed out at assembly so that children understand what they are for and more of an impact
* **Storyland express invoice** received was £66 instead of the agreed £53 – this for the hire of the hall for 6-hours to accommodate a morning and afternoon session. Feedback from Nursery and P1 was this was an excellent show and everyone enjoyed it – a big thank you from both classes.
* **Sports Relief** – Mrs Hughes will look into what’s available for this.
* **Christmas Fair** was a big success. Recognised
* **Learning Journeys –** these have gone out for P1 in the past week to make the links from nursery to P1 and share information about development
* **Football –** Mrs Hughes contacted Active Schools coordinator to find out if anyone from the academy who could come down and train the older stages in how to referee the match. Mrs Hughes also raised this with the children at assembly to remind them of how football works
* **SeeSaw –** still being trialled in the school and once the system is understood on how to use this best for parent liaison purposes it will be rolled out. Accounting for lessons learned from other schools who are already using this system
* **Aberdeenshire Council Constitution –** Parent Council agreed to retain 2012 version of the constitution with the following additions/amendments:
  + 4 Office Bearers and maximum of 12 parent council members
  + Constitution – will be posted on the school website under the parent council pages and a link made available through Facebook and text. Parents will have 2 weeks to provide feedback on changes made.
  + **ACTION**: Wording for Text and website needs to be provided to Lyndsay who can upload onto the website eg parent council have reviewed the constitution. Please follow the link to review this and feedback any comments to parent council Gmail address (TBC)
  + **ACTION**: Michelle to update the constitution if soft copy available
  + **ACTION**: Paula to post link on Facebook

1. **Head teacher report**

* **Staffing** - Mrs Cassie retired after 21 years, she will be missed. Post wil be advertised. Mrs Hendrick left as PSA at Christmas and Alison Brown will start as new PSA on Friday. Mrs Wood (PSA) is currently absent and will be until further notice. Assistant early year practitioner, Lisa Halgryn, is starting in post and has 23 months to complete SVQ.
* **M&M Cup** – now have 2 cups (junior p1-3, senior p4-7) and awarded for Doric speaking. Assembly for this will be early February.
* **ALEC (Aberdeen Life Education Centre)** – is visiting the school. Parent Carer session invite has been issued.
* **Jazzamatazz** – 12 half days in this will be provided for the school starting Feb/March. Classes taking part in this to be determined.
* **Care Inspectorate visit** – governing body for nursery who inspect settings unannounced. Received 5 out of 6 (very good) rating for the two sections focused on. Great to see the hard work that has be undertaken in the nursery has been recognised.

1. **Treasurer report**

* Accounts sitting at £2851.31 - Float (£40) and Kemnay Church Centre Hire (£66) to be deducted

1. **School wish list (once a term)**

* List of high, medium and low importance for **PE equipment** to be replaced. Suggestion from Elma to check what’s possible to be funded by sports relief.

**ACTION**: Mrs Hughes to research Sport Relief options

**ACTION**: What’s App group to be set up for Parent Council so that we can more responsive to decision making and issues arising from parent council meeting – Jemma to set up. Michelle to include action note on email with minutes asking people to reply with mobile number so can be included in the group

**ACTION**: Mrs Hughes to contact Paula with outcome of Sport Relief decision and list of requested PE items for decision on what can else could be supported

1. **Fundraising**

* **Valentines Disco** – 7 February

**ACTION**: Mrs Hughes to add details to newsletter asking for volunteers; text from the school also to go out and Paula to post shout out for help on Facebook.

* **Soup & Sweet** – 23 February (TBC)

**ACTION**: Fundraising group to meet after 31st Jan to agree how this will be organised. Elma to lead this one!

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

1. **Suggestion to explore Abolishing Homework**

Parent approached Jemma in the playground and as they were unable to attend the meeting, prepared a statement for Jemma to read. In summary, schools who have removed homework (eg Monymusk) have found a noticeable positive difference in terms of behaviour and proposed removal of homework for Alehousewells for these benefits.

Some discussion over this including other parents view that this is a useful step to prepare children for moving up to secondary school as well as equipping children with life skills to manage time etc. Acknowledgement that there will be parents who are keen for homework to be removed for the reason stated and other parents who like the link homework provides with the school and the work their child is doing (on the basis that some children are very reticent about speaking about what they actually do at school on a day to day basis).

Teaching staff would ask parents to speak to their class teacher in the first instance if homework is having a detrimental impact on the child (and home life) as there are multiple ways that homework can be undertaken and not always requirement for written work.

1. **Bullying Leaflet**

* Jemma found leaflet – designed by children in Aberdeen City – on bullying advice. This was shared with - concern that the content is too ‘advanced’ for the younger years and potentially a stretch for even the older years. Also concern that is this is distributed, it might force parents to have conversations with their children that they (and their children) are not ready to have yet.
* In the classroom, conversations around ‘bullying behaviour’ is talked about when it arises
* Agreed to include something on this for each class in the Diversity Week (before Easter holidays)

1. **Doggie bag bottles**

* Existing bottles looking tatty so Jemma will remove them for a short period of time and replace if needed. Community council donate biodegradable bags for the bottles. The messaging appeared to be successful as there has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of dog mess on the pavement around the school.

1. **AOB**

* Mrs McLaughlin – raised occupational therapy information that could be usefully shared with the wider parent forum.

**ACTION**: Paula to post the link on Facebook and Lyndsay also to make available via the school website.

* Sports day **22nd May (weather dependant)** – Lisa offered teas and coffees for a short time and was successful. Would parent council support this in 2019 for a longer time.

**Next Parent Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 24th April – everyone welcome to attend.**