

Parent Council Meeting – 03/06/2025

Welcome

In person: Mrs Clark, Lynda Shanks, Sarah Donoghue, Claire Stein, Annie Irving

On-line: John Young, Ashley Doring, Natalie Kirby, Helen White and Jenni Shanks (Joined for the last 20 minutes)

Apologies from Louise Ballantyne

Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting. And a particular warm welcome to the new parents who have joined the school this August.

Annual report 2024/25: Abernyte Primary School Parent Council

Sarah Donoghue (Chair)

3rd September 2025

Activities the past year:

- Fun Day June 2024, really well attended (even with date change due to weather), everyone had a great time and we raised £700
- Pub quiz
- Halloween Beetle Drive (raised £150)
- Christmas Community Café (made £400)

Supported school events:

- Funded Harry Potter day for Noah P7 leaver
- Supported end of term trip to Active Kids and bought all children an ice cream
- Bought ice creams at Sports Day and Oor wullie panto
- Santa gifts at Christmas community café

Charity work:

- Social Flock School Uniform challenge
- Donated £100 of funday money to Social Flock
- Blythswood Care shoeboxes (Abernyte Community sent 35 boxes to Ukraine & Eastern Europe)
- Perth and Kinross food bank donated 55.15kg of stock collected at Christmas cafe

Worked with teachers to help Abernyte Primary School be the best it can be:

- Playship completed
- Discussion around school intake numbers with Alastair Bailey and John Swinney
- Parent Council representatives attended Additional Support Needs (ASN) meetings
- Discussed traffic calming measures and school travel plans
- Managed to be headlice (☹️) free for a while
- Bought speaker and CD player for events
- Supported costs of extra classroom activities e.g. crafts via Tesco/Amazon vouchers for teachers

Changes and Vacancies to members

Class Rep for P1-P3: there is space available.

Class Rep for P4-P7: there is a space available.

Secretary: Lynda is stepping down as secretary.

Actions- if anyone is interested in any of these roles then get in touch with Sarah or Lynda for more information.

Headteacher Update

Good evening, everyone and a very warm welcome back to a new school year at Abernyte Primary. It's lovely to see you all, and I hope the summer break brought some rest and sunshine.

Staffing Update

I'm pleased to confirm that our staffing is now fixed for the year ahead:

- Mrs. Jones will be teaching on Wednesdays, Tuesday and Thursdays
- Miss Sangster is full time
- I will be in class on Mondays, Tuesday mornings and Fridays
- Mrs Martin is in supporting the teachers everyday except Thursdays
- Mrs Philbrick is in supporting the teachers on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Mrs Cuthbertson is in the office Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mondays are a bit of a stretch for us staffing wise as we only have three people in so emails and phone calls will more than likely not be picked up quickly on this day.

We're delighted to have such a strong team in place and look forward to a positive year of learning and growth.

School Uniform

A big thank you to all families for supporting our school uniform policy. The children look smart and ready to learn. We have noticed a few non-uniform items creeping in—particularly jumpers and cardigans. So just a gentle reminder to stick to the agreed uniform. If anyone needs support accessing additional items, Social Flock is available and happy to help.

School Improvement Plan

This year, our School Improvement Plan will focus on two key areas:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) – enhancing curiosity, creativity and problem-solving
- Nurturing Relationships – continuing to build a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all learners

We'll share more about how this will look in practice as the term progresses.

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

We've been allocated £4,800 through the Pupil Equity Fund, which is designed to help close the attainment gap in Scottish schools. In primary settings, this funding is often used to support targeted interventions, additional staffing, resources, or professional development. This year, we'll be using our allocation to enhance learning and teaching, with a particular focus on STEM resources, literacy and numeracy support.

Communication

Please remember to use the abernyteparents@pkc.gov.uk email address for any school-related

communication. It helps us keep everything organised and ensures your messages reach the right person.

Learning Journals & Profiling

Last year, we trialled Just2Easy as a digital profiling tool to share learning with families. While it offered a structured way to document pupil progress, engagement from families was limited and many didn't log on regularly, and interaction through comments was minimal. This was a learning experience for us, as we had hoped the platform would encourage home-school dialogue, giving children a chance to reflect on their learning with their families. Our teaching staff invested a great deal of time and care into curating content, and while the tool had potential, it didn't quite meet our needs in terms of accessibility and ease of use.

We also received helpful feedback from parents about the platform being difficult to navigate, and some concerns were raised around photograph sharing. After seeking advice from the Digital Learning Team at the centre, we've decided to pause the use of Just2Easy for now and explore alternatives that better suit our school community.

These include:

- Training on tools within Microsoft Teams, which many families are already familiar with
- Using OneNote for pupil profiling, offering a more flexible and user-friendly experience
- Making our Twitter account private, which would allow us to continue sharing photographs and updates if parents wished for us to continue using it the way we do

We'd really appreciate your thoughts on this so we have created a feedback form. What would work best for your family? Would you prefer a digital tool, or something more tangible like a paper-based profile? Your feedback will help us make the right decision moving forward. If you could please take a few minutes at the end of the meeting tonight or return this form tomorrow it would be much appreciated. Mrs Cuthbertson will also email this out to everyone.

Parent Contact Meetings

We're looking forward to welcoming parents into school for our Parent Contact Meetings:

- Wednesday 1st October from 3:30–5:00pm
- Tuesday 7th October from 4:00–5:30pm

Each family will have a **10-minute** appointment with their child's class teacher to discuss how they've settled back into school and how things are going so far. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss something in more detail, please get in touch before your appointment so we can arrange a longer or separate meeting if needed.

Forest School Learning

Mrs Philbrick will be running a forest school learning opportunity for the children. This will be limited to 8 children at any one time and will focus on outdoor learning, all the work the children have put into the grounds of the school last year and how it has changed.

Ship

Mrs Clark made suggestions to add points of interest to the ship and to have the cross removed. Having observed the children there is little imaginative play taking place on the ship and it is being used more to run through during a game of tig. Can we add more things and remove the cross? It was also suggested that the ship needs to be treated to ensure the protection of the wood.

Actions

Annie Irving to speak with Callum who may be able to remove the cross and who may have ideas on items which we could add to the ship.

Parents to come forward with any ideas on how to “jazz” up the ship.

Sarah Donoghue to coordinate retreating and painting the ship.

Agenda Items

PE Kits

There is some confusion over which kids need PE kits and which wear their kits to school. It was also suggested that it causes friction in the mornings between siblings. Mrs Clark explained that it is due to the music opportunity in the P4-P7 class and bundling the 2hrs of PE into one day. The system will continue as it has been; P4-7 to come to school wearing PE clothes on a Thursday and the P1-3 to have their PE clothes in a PE bag at school for them to change into at school.

Clubs

Parents are very welcome to come into the school to share their expertise and run a club at the school. It could be fitness, science, cooking, gardening. Whether it is something to share with the children or parents or both then please coordinate with Mrs Clark.

Referring to actions from the last meetings minutes. No one has come forward to take over as gardening club leader.

Mrs Clark highlighted that parents are always welcome to come into the school during lunchtime to run a club or share a one-off workshop.

Actions

Lynda to organise a one off cutting of the Willow structure.

Fundraising

We are looking for volunteers to help in the fundraising team. So please if you are interested in raising money for the school and for some good charities too then reach out to Sarah or Lynda.

Events in the planning for 2025/2026 so far are (Dates to be confirmed):

September 9th & October 3rd – Blueberry Picking

October- Halloween Party for the children

Blythwood Shoeboxes – Leaflets and dates to be sent out soon.

December- Christmas Community Café in coordination with the school

Parents Christmas Nightout

January- “Pub” Quiz (BYOB Social)

May – Fun Day!

Blueberry picking – Claire Stein has organised two spots for blueberry picking. Where people can come and pick blue berries and all the money raised goes toward the school. So please spread the word for people who like the outdoors and enjoy field to plate food to go Blueberry picking! We are also looking for volunteers to help be based at the stall. If you are free then please contact Claire Stein.

Thomas Thomopson Farm, Blairgowrie

9th September: 9am – 1:30

3rd October: 9am – 12:30

Easyfundraising.com- This is a company that will donate money to our school every time you spend online. There are thousands of retailers that qualify such as Tesco, Amazon, Argos etc. So for a click of a button, you can be raising money for the school! Each quarter the parent council get around £40 which really helps to meet our annual expenses. Please contact Lynda if you need to help setting this up.

Actions

We are also looking for helpers on these days to help coordinate the stall.

Anyone interested in joining the Fundraising Team then please reach out to Sarah or Lynda.

Cleaner

There is a cleaner vacancy with Tayside Contracts which will involve working in Abernyte School and Inchtute School. The position details are online so if anyone knows of anyone local who would be interested in taking up this role then please point them in Tayside Contracts direction.

Intake

There will be a challenge with intake for next August 2026. The parents have created a whatsapp group to support families of siblings who may not have a place next year. There are no further actions until next January. Placing requests online applications are active and open until the end of March 2026.

Discussion:

Do we know if the council are planning a blanket refusal of placing requests? Mrs Clark has not heard of that being the case.

We know through parent connections that two of the six families who are living in catchment for Aug 2026 intake are planning to apply for Inchtute and one has made enquiries at Abernyte school. For the other three families it is unknown.

School travel plan

This is regarding the safety of the children during drop off and pick up. There are investigations going into another school bus to reduce the cars driving to the school at these times.

Actions

Matt is investigating some options to strengthen the application of a free bus which would operate as an out of catchment bus but would also be leased out to other causes such as Stay and Play, Community needs etc.

Mrs Clark to send out communication on a new plan for school pick up. The current system is not working and so new information to follow on some changes to be made.

Sarah will follow up with the council on bus lane at the school playground entrance.

Sarah thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed.