

Parent Council term 2 meeting - 10th November 2025

Attendance: Jennifer Clark (Headteacher); Sarah Donoghue (Chairperson), Matt Sierocinski King (p4-7 class rep); Matthew Talbot; Tessa Sands (P1-3 class rep); Nick; John Young; Jenni Shanks; Annie Irving; Debs Strickland.

Apologies: Helen White (Treasurer); Lynda Shanks (Secretary).

1. Welcome

Sarah updated that Lynda is now stepping down from her role as Secretary and that she will now take on the dual role of secretary and chairperson. On behalf of Helen, Sarah will share the treasurer report. Sarah also shared that Tessa wishes to stand down from her role as P1-3 class rep and shared that Louise and Matt volunteered prior to this meeting to take on this role.

2. Headteacher update

Communication & Severe Weather: In the unlikely event that the school must close due to severe weather, parents/carers will be informed via an email from the school office account before 8am. If closure occurs during the school day, the school will remain open until all children have been safely collected. You will be notified through a phone call. Due to our location on high ground, we are particularly affected by frost and snow. A snow/salt plan is in place with Tayside Contracts, prioritising safe access to fire exits and the main entrance. Please note:

- The playground is not gritted before the start of the day
- Extra care must be taken with moving vehicles
- Paths may be treated if time and resources allow

Events & Trips This Term:

- Community Café: Planned for 1:30pm on Wednesday 3rd December.
- The Christmas Party in the afternoon of the 18th December. Children are welcome to wear party clothes that day.
- Christmas Jumpers: Children may wear festive jumpers over their uniforms throughout December.
- P7 Leaver Hoodies: These have been ordered and will be gifted from our school fund, supported by Rag Bag and Tempest commission. This will be the last year of gifting hoodies. (Parents to fund in future).
- Christmas Pantomime: Morning of Tuesday 16th December. Please check your emails and make the relevant payment through ParentPay. We don't want any families to miss out, if you are struggling to pay please reach out to Mrs Clark in confidence.
- Christmas Church Service: Tuesday 23rd December at 9:30am – all families and friends welcome. You may take your child home directly from the church, otherwise they will return to school until 12pm.

In-Service Training: Staff have a very productive two days of training planned:

- Numeracy Workshop: Focusing on oracy in maths, using tools like Numicon to support exploratory talk and reduce maths anxiety. This is developed in partnership with Voice 21.

- Nurturing Relationships: Staff will be exploring nurture principles using the Glasgow Wellbeing Motivational Tool, identifying key areas to support pupils more effectively.

Timekeeping: We've noticed a growing number of children arriving late to school. While we understand mornings can be challenging, punctuality is essential for a smooth start to the day. In a small school like ours, staff wear many hats—teaching, supporting learning, managing the office, and more. When children arrive late:

- It disrupts the flow of learning for the whole class and school
- It's very difficult to catch children up, especially when key instructions and routines happen first thing this includes the registration and lunch ordering
- It has an impact on the child and their day as they arrive late into the class environment

Please help us by ensuring your child arrives on time. If on the rare occasion you know you'll be late, email or call ahead so we can look out for your child and ensure they enter safely.

Just a reminder that parents are responsible for their children up until 9am. A member of staff will be out to welcome the children as the bus arrives.

Christmas Pantomime: We're planning a festive trip to the Christmas Pantomime on Tuesday 16th December. This is always a highlight for the children! We'll confirm the total cost shortly. If the Parent Council is willing to contribute towards transport or the full cost, it would be greatly appreciated. Children are encouraged to bring their own snacks.

Yes – the Parent Council will pay £365 for the coach to the panto.

Community Café & Parent Council Support: Our next Community Café is planned for Wednesday 3rd December. We'd love to involve the children in baking and preparing food. To support this, we're asking the Parent Council to consider purchasing a small oven for the school. This would allow us to cook with the children regularly and build life skills.

Yes – the Parent Council will spend £100-£200 for a small tabletop oven.

Staff have also suggested making Christmas wreaths and log decorations with the children. If the Parent Council could fund the materials, we'd support the children to create these and sell them at the café, with all proceeds going back to Parent Council funds.

Yes – the Parent Council are happy to fund materials for crafts for the community café.

We're open to other ideas too—crafts, a Santa's grotto, local business stalls, and a raffle have all been suggested. Please let us know if you'd like to help or have any contacts who might support us.

There will be a follow-up meeting for anyone keen to help with the Christmas community café- Wednesday at 13:15 at the school, all welcome.

Weather & Clothing: The weather is turning, and we're still making the most of outdoor learning. Please ensure children come to school dressed appropriately:

- Warm layers
- Waterproofs
- Sturdy footwear

We've noticed some children arriving without coats, in wet shoes, or wearing summer dresses. Please be mindful that children may be outside for extended periods and can get cold quickly.

Small School, Small Team: As a small school with a small staff, there are times when the phone and email may not be monitored, especially on Mondays when staffing is limited. Mrs Cuthbertson works in the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, so if you're trying to gain access to the building on Mondays and Wednesdays, we may not hear you right away as we're often in class with the children. Please be patient and, where possible, email or call ahead. We'll always do our best to respond promptly and support you.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We're looking forward to a joyful and busy term!

3. Treasurer update

- There is £1,919 in parent council account
- £378 raised from blueberry picking – thank you Claire Stein for organising this and to all the volunteers
- Still looking into play ship extras, thank you for the suggestions – **Sarah to catch up with Callum on this**

4. Fundraising and events

- **Community café** - see above
- **Parents Christmas night out** – 13th December, all welcome. Please contact Sarah for more details.
- **Pub quiz** - Jan 2026, TBC.

5. School travel

- Please email Mrs Clark directly if you have any concerns for your particular family around parking at drop off/pick up.
- Matt SK presented a travel plan (PowerPoint to be circulated). Summary:
 - o ~75% response rate to travel survey – thank you for completing
 - o In catchment roll under half the school roll.
 - o Out of catchment children make up the majority but are projections show this will decrease.
 - o Chance of concessionary places on PKC bus for out of catchment children likely to reduce in the future.
 - o Travel patterns by in vs out of catchment families: in morning in catchment children tend to use the PKC bus, whereas out of catchment families use their car. In the afternoon, most families use a car.
 - o Some car sharing is already happening but <10%
 - o Space for max 8-13 cars along pavement next to school, plus 6 extra spaces around the village = 14 – 19 car space total.
 - o Currently, up to 17 families drive to the school.
 - o Several options to address parking situation:
 1. Do nothing
 2. Car sharing
 3. Old council 16-seater minibus maintained and driven by parent council with out of catchment children paying for this.
 4. Lease private minibus – out of catchment families pay for.

5. Better road markings/designated parking spaces on main road.

- It was suggested that parents take it in turn to monitor the parking situation in the playground. Mrs Clark confirmed that this would not be possible.
- There was also a discussion around options for parking such as changing the fencing in the playground to create a 'parking area', staggered pick-up, and car sharing.