

Underbank Primary School
Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 2nd March 2023

Present: Scott Martin (Chair), Lorraine Cameron, (Vice Chair) Margo Millar (HT), Rebekah Bond (CT), Jenny Parry, Charlotte Marshall,

Co-opted Member: Donna Stewart (present)

Apologies: Mhairi van der Kaars, Suzanne Marshall, Krystal McNicol, Cllr Corbett

Minutes: Geraldine Totten

Welcome & Apologies - SM welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting and shared apologies received.

Previous Minutes.

Proposed – SM

Seconded – JP

HT Report – See Appendix 1.

MM went over the HT report in detail and answered any relevant questions to her report. She then went onto the various bullet points under the HT Update heading and answered questions raised from each bullet point.

MM handed all present a document detailing Parental Engagement, Involvement & Family Learning activities ongoing at Underbank. A short discussion ensued regarding this. LC commented that in comparison to other schools, Underbank had a great variety of opportunities for pupils and parents. JP also commented about the various community involvement activities and the very positive impact that this had on the school and our community. MM Advised that all community groups are very welcome and are seen as positive partners in the school. She advised that she has had an excellent relationship over the years with the Christian Outreach Group. Various members of this group are in regular contact throughout the year with the school for such activities as the annual village Christmas card. MM advised of the sad loss of one of the members last year, and another this year, both of whom were regular visitors and partners to the school.

MM explained that we have recently been given a large number of new school uniform items. They have via a parent's workplace. MM asked the parent council for their opinion on displaying this at the next our Parents Consultations. A short discussion ensued, and it was agreed that this should be displayed and parents could make a small donation for any items taken, if they wish. MM asked if any member of the PC was willing to help with this. JP said she could help at the late session and LC said she could maybe help at the early session. DS would prepare a spreadsheet of everything available and this would also be on display for requested to be encouraged.

The final bullet point under the HT Update was pupil attendance and the impact that this had on pupil learning. MM shared a diagram SLC had produced detailing percentage attendance and how many missed days in school that this equated to.

All present thought that this was a great way to show parents just how their child's learning could be affected. A short discussion ensued as to why pupil attendance was on the decline. MM advised that term time holidays was the main problem, but that she had been active in issuing letters when children are taken out of school for a term time holiday. LC & JP both commented that since COVID, parents are more mindful when sending their children into school. In the past children would be sent to school with a sniffle, and parents wouldn't mind getting a phone call. Now parents tend to keep children off school to stop the spread of any viruses. The Parent Council felt that a similar style chart could be issued to parents to show the impact that absences, in particular term time holidays, have on children's learning/attendance.

Funding

LC advised that the focus for fundraising is for the purchase of iPads. She advised that the maximum available from Tesco was £1500. Our Parent Council application is now complete and ready to submit. The decision on whether funding is given could take a considerable amount of time though. CM

suggested to LC that trying some of the other big Supermarkets might be considered, e.g. ASDA. LC explained the criteria you need to meet and said she would see how she gets on with Tesco first and then approach others at a later date if considered appropriate.

Hi Viz Vests

MM advised that Fraser Dunlop Haulage donated a class set of hi viz vests and another parent who wished to remain anonymous, also donated a quantity. This meant that, with the high viz vests already in school, and both these donations, all classes now had a full class set, including adults. MM advised that these were used for walking to the Church, activities in the community. A set has also been created for Forest School as these tend to get muddy. MM expressed her thanks to both parents who have assisted in implementing this safety idea for the school.

Internet Safety Session

SM advised everyone present that this was an eye opening, invaluable event and that as a parent, he had learned from it. Some of the approaches to internet safety were described by SM as very interesting. He shared that PC Leggate advocated keeping an open dialogue with children and not to remove their devices, as this can lead to children feeling that they can't approach should any concerns arise.

AOCB

No items added to the Agenda but a few questions raised.

JP enquired about whether music pupils and their parents were issued with a report re their progress. MM advised that Mrs Robertson, the violin tutor, did indeed produce a report and that JP would get one in due course. She also enquired if there would be an opportunity to meet with the tutor. MM advised that this was not really possible as she teaches over various schools but MM would enquire re a telephone consultation or short email sharing progress.

MM advised how lucky Underbank is with all the different music tuition on offer – brass, violin, drumming/percussion and an input for P3 and 4 pupils from the SLC Music Instrumental Service.

JP enquired about P7 transition events, what these entailed, and if there would be any information events for parents etc. MM advised of all the P7/S1 transition events in detail and advised JP that these would start in the new school year for our P6 pupils.

CM asked re Google Classroom and why the homework diaries were no longer in use. A short discussion ensued and MM advised that communication between parent and the teacher could be done through the homework jotter. A short discussion also ensued re the platform SeeSaw and why this was not being used. South Lanarkshire School continue to advise that there are GDPR issues around this platform.

The question of pupil passwords was also raised and MM advised that due to GDPR we are not allowed to share pupil passwords.

Date of next meeting: 18th May 2023 at 6:30pm