



PARENT COUNCIL MEETING WINDYKNOWE PS

DATE: Thursday 17th November 2022 **TIME:** 6.00PM

VENUE: In School

ATTENDEES – SCHOOL	APOLOGIES
Rita Angus – Head Teacher	Rhona Tait
Gillian Norquoy – Deputy Head Teacher	Anisha Yasin
	Dion Harrington
ATTENDEES – PARENT / CARERS	Emma Douglas
Donna McLeary	Harry Cartmill (local councillor)
Laura Weir	Pauline Stafford (local councillor)
Claire Mitchell	
Juliet Redmond	
Jillian Jamieson	
Erin McGeddie	
Nikki Davidson	
Michelle Blackley	

Introductions and Apologies

Donna welcomed everyone and read out apologies that had been received

Actions from last meeting

- School Bus** – Donna had emailed our local councillors all information discussed at last meeting. This is the response she received -

“ Thank you for sending the details on the issues raised about the transport at Windyknowe PS. There has been some work on this since the return of the schools in August after the summer break. As a little bit of background all transport contracts were renewed this year, this was due to the existing framework from which our contracts were tendered expiring and contracts expiring at the same time. As a result of the retender exercise a new operator was awarded the contract to Windyknowe PS and have been operating as per our specification. Salmond’s who operate this route hold 12 contracts currently for school bus routes and are a very reliable supplier and they have been very cooperative when addressing issues raised at Windyknowe PS. I must note that although the previous supplier served the rear car park at the school an assessment of the area was conducted by both Salmonds and our inspections officers from passenger transport. Salmond’s had suggested that the area accessing the rear car park would be unsuitable, even with a smaller vehicle due to the streets and parked cars leading to the school car park, this was reinforced by our inspections officer who as an experienced bus driver was of the opinion that there was a high risk of damage or being stuck due to limited access and no driver should be forced to make such manoeuvres. It was then agreed that in the morning, as the turning circle is already so busy with cars dropping pupils off, that the bus would drop off at the main road where pupils are met by school employees to ensure their safety into the school. At the end of the day in order to allow access to the turning circle, the bus is parked before cars can enter the turning circle, ensuring a suitable pick up location at the end of the school day.

In terms of request for the bus to be earlier for the breakfast club in the morning, the school transport policy does not account for breakfast clubs or after school clubs and as such this



was not noted in the specification for the contract tender. For any change to the operational times, it would require the supplier to be in a position to amend their timetables and this would have to be at no additional cost as it is not covered by policy. Unfortunately, Salmond's were unable to operate earlier due to other contractual commitments and as this was not part of the contract specification they have no obligation to accommodate. Of course, if there are any changes operationally in the future this can be reviewed."

Mrs Angus advised that any parent/carer who has any concerns especially coming into the winter months regarding the school bus to email Harry Cartmill or Pauline Stafford and raise concerns. The school will obviously deal with any issues as they happen with pupil transport and Salmonds.

- Mrs Angus met with Tom from **Switch Off and Breathe** and is awaiting new posters/banners being produced to put at turning circle.

Agenda Points Submitted

- Can P1 parents be involved in the nativity? Mrs Angus thanked the parent for the offer. The P1 teachers have all the organisation of the actual nativity in hand at present. Tea and Coffee are offered after the nativity and parent helpers will be required for this service.
- Music and available instruments for children – The music room is generously filled with percussion instruments. Last year Mrs Brown, ordered a large amount to update the music resources. As music is part of the school curriculum, teachers have music included in lessons throughout the year. There is a brass teacher available to children from Primary 4.
- Is the school doing anything for the 16 days of activism? – Nothing specific is planned and nothing has been suggested by the council regarding this. There was an anti bullying assembly held last week for all pupils which was designed and led by the children. Children receive the appropriate age and stage related teachings and the expectations of children regarding their behaviour and treatment of others are part of the values of the school
- Jillian Jamieson commented on how well the Children in Need events were organised and published to parents by the school. The email that was sent out together detailing what was going on and when was very informative. Mrs Angus commented on how well the whole school supported the P5's who organised many of the events. A special thanks to Mr Muller who spent many evenings baking and decorating cakes which were sold out each day!
- Parent question regarding I-Pay and school bus costs – Mrs Angus was unsure why the payment was coming up as it was and to encourage any parent experiencing difficulty with I-Pay or if they have questions or queries to call the school office in the first instance.
- School Bus and Conduct – A parent council member had recently spoken to another parent who's child has had issues on the school bus with other children. She asked that all children be reminded about their behaviour on the bus and that they are a reflection of the school. Mrs Angus agreed that bad behaviour on the bus is unacceptable and will be re-iterated to all children.



Head Teacher Update

- Family Champ volunteer -Juliet Redmond appointed at last meeting, Miss Hesp will be in touch regarding meeting dates and times. Thank you to Mrs Redmond for volunteering to take on this role.
- Christmas Fayre -This will be taking place on Friday 2 December from 1.00pm-3.00pm. Our PSA have asked for volunteers to help with the games and stalls if you're free.
- Tree Planting - We sourced over 100 young trees for our school boundary and have a number of parent volunteers who are helping us plant them. If anyone else can help please get in touch with the school office.
- Learning In School - Our children are currently involved in their enterprise planning, designing and making for the school fayre. The week before enterprise focus they had to cost their materials and put a bid in for a loan from school fund for their materials. Children will also be involved in banner designs for the hall for Christmas and practising their dances for parties. Lots to look forward to alongside the Literacy and Numeracy which will continue within these contexts up to the holidays. Children have been asked by Tesco to design a theme for the windows. We have chosen dinosaurs in Christmas jumpers as a bit of fun and the best 3 from each class will be submitted to the Tesco competition.
- Participatory Budget - We have £1900 to spend from our Pupil Equity Fund allocation. We started by asking children for some ideas of ways to spend the money. Ms Norquoy shared these and asked for agreement from Parent Council on what they would like. It was agreed that the money should be spent on whatever the children are keen to have for their school. Inspiring Scotland offer a grant which we could apply for. Repainting of playground was a favourite with the PCA to benefit all. Laura Weir suggested that the PSA would possibly be able to offer assistance to this to ensure that many items on the wish list were achievable, she will bring this up at their next meeting.
- Book Fayre - We were rewarded with £533 worth of books from the sales at the book fayre. We have used this money to buy non fiction books for our library. The children wanted more of these types of text so this should be well received on arrival.
- Class Assemblies - So far, P7 and P3 have presented their class assemblies which were absolutely fantastic. The children practised their words etc really well and preformed beautifully on the day. We look forward to seeing our P5 Children In Need assembly this Friday.
- In an effort to help families who need it Mrs Angus was looking for assistance on how to reduce the stigma attached to 2nd hand uniform supplies. The Parent Council suggested a bring and buy sale, a sustainability fayre or coffee morning.
- Mrs Angus shared with the Parent Council the details of the school fund. The reason for this is that all spending should be transparent. Ideas for spending are taken from the children through formal meetings e.g. pupil council and informally by play ground chats for example. From August to end of October £5,018.42 has been spent on arts and craft items, nursery iPad, fire pit for P3, cooking equipment, nativity costumes and licenses, Christmas enterprise outlay and trip subsidies. The Parent Council asked what made up this pot of money. Mrs Angus informed the group that due to low spending over covid the pot was larger than normal and that money raised from coffee mornings, enterprise, book sales, school photos all attributed to the fund.

Going forward the following funds have been earmarked from the school fund:

- £550.00 to Santa gifts for nursery, P1 and P2 children
- £500.00 for Christmas party food for class parties



- £12,500.00 for garden improvements
- £400.00 for skip hire for garden items to be removed
- £14,000 for buses for sports trips, P7 transitions
- £900.00 for new nursery equipment

Mrs Angus asked the Parent Council if there were any other items that they feel should be covered by this fund. Nothing else was suggested

A.O.B:

- Gala Day float – It was agreed that we will encourage people to create a procession committee in the new year. It will take full co-operation of the parents as in previous years this has been left to school staff. If enough volunteers do not come forward, there is a real chance that there will be no float for the procession

Actions:

- Laura Weir to bring up funding spend with the PSA
- School to advertise gala day float committee in January

Next meeting:

Wednesday 8th February 2023, 6pm,

All points that you wish to be raised on the next agenda, please submit them to

Donna.reid1@yahoo.co.uk