



ST.MACHAN'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

St Machan's Parent Council Minutes

Date: Wednesday 29th May 2024

Place: St Machan's Primary School

SMT Attendees: Rosaleen Miller, Rebecca Momoh

Attendees: Jenny O'Grady (Chair), Lauren Crawford (Vice Chair), Paula Miller (Clerk)
Kevin Gavigan, Anne O'Grady, Niamh Rabey, Denise Lenaghan

PTA Attendees: Louise Shovlin, Jenny O'Grady

Apologies: Canon Jeremy Bath,

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes
3. 60th Anniversary Celebrations Feedback
4. School Events Feedback
5. P1 Parents Safari Park Volunteers
6. Anne O'Grady
7. HT Report
8. AOB
9. PTA Update
10. Date of Next Meetings

MINUTES

1. WELCOME, PRAYER AND APOLOGIES

Jenny welcomed all present and introduced herself with a bit of background. Contacting PC – set up QR code with an email address and a poster. Feedback from parents has all been very negative – looking to turn this around and focus on positives. So, if come forward with negative then also come up with a solution

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved.

Price for photos John Wilson and one other photographer to be sourced.

Class photos not done e.g. p4 – can this be added?

Who sorts children's ties etc photographer or teacher?

Parents not told about photographer coming in – check?

Anti bullying has been put up – policies all include catholic ethos.

3. 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FEEDBACK

Some parents thought it was unclear until the day that P1 – P7 would be performing in both shows. Some parents took the full day off due to this as they had a child in P2 and P4.

4. SCHOOL EVENTS FEEDBACK

A few parents feel there is quite a lot of events at the school, where they feel they need to attend recently.

5. P1 PARENTS SAFARI PARK VOLUNTEERS

Some P1 parents would like to volunteer for the Safari Park Trip if this is a possibility? Rosaleen advised that we love volunteers but if not PVG then will always be with the teacher – a communication will be sent to those who have volunteered

6. ANNE O'GRADY

Anne here on behalf of Canon Bath and read an excerpt from book 'Will the real me please stand up.' Communion were glorious and went really well. The link between the school and families really shows. Missed the music at communion particularly St Paul's where 4 children sang on their own. Rosaleen is already discussing with St Ninian's to see what we can do together. Rebecca is running a choir in school already. Children gave thank you cards to everyone involved with communion, hall keepers etc

7. HT REPORT

Exceptionally proud of the children and all the staff for 60th celebrations and preparations. Lots of positive compliments from the guests who felt really welcome at our school. Was a wee thank you rather than ticketed event so we split the children as weren't ticketing (due to health & safety) was originally going to be half parents morning/afternoon, then after staff meeting after some chat around this we decided to have all children performing so can attend am or pm performance. Didn't want to take away the loveliness of celebrations. Very difficult to organise a big event like concert or Mass and want it noted that really proud of our school and children and staff. We need to move on from negativity - could have communicated about all children performing but couldn't change the numbers issue so this is why change wasn't announced. Niamh pointed out that people are often quick to complain but not help out with a solution.

At end of school year always lots of events - HT doesn't set these sacramental dates (church)/transition dates (HS) it will always be busy at this time as need to make sure the transitions/sacraments happen smoothly with partnership working. Can't change this but can try be more aware of this for future however things like sacraments are set outwith.

Transition P7 next year – St Ninian's have another bus so this is really good news for us with getting all our kids there. This year we were trying so hard to secure buses but just wasn't possible.

Agenda going forward needs to be from the wider body i.e. 90% of parents feedback rather than just a few points from a handful of parents – work with Parent Council for partnership workings – can you help with skills development and pupil voice groups

Can you help with people coming onboard with people helping us with their skills...cooking/gardening/life skills. Rebecca suggested doing a Microsoft form with the skills/ availability to help us manage for August going forward

School improvement plan for next year – not set but looking to continue with literacy and writing and look to improve spelling. look at IDL and subjects to modernise the curriculum for the children, liven up with what is on offer to the kids.

All schools involved in the circle framework. Inclusive in classroom and HT at training to refresh skills on this.

DHT post is now up as permanent position – hopefully filled by August

Received an award for P7 artistry (signed up by Suzanne and James for Mock Court experience) and won the artistry award. Award is on our sports day so HT looking to see if someone can come out to school so P7 don't miss last sports day.

Photography - Jenny has had quotes from Wilson photography and Fizz Photography – much the same but Wilson can offer to change backgrounds etc. Jenny looking to put a poll up with options. Louise said about packages not being friendly for large families

Rosaleen mentioned needing professional photographer for communions – possibility that people wouldn't buy pics as they have decent cameras but possibly would buy a group photo. A poll for this too to see if there would be a need for it.

We now have a key to the pitch for use as and when we want p.e. days, sports days. LPS and Craighead also have a key and we will be mindful of each other's use

Next year only 13 P1's – was 14 boys and 2 girls but the 2 girls pulled out and will now be a class of 13 boys.

SVDP phoned and offered us some money and help. P7 have been asked for options they would like for their £250.

Talent show – PTA will support and help with this. Will be down to 3 acts per class. Denise and Louise have agreed to come in and help them rehearse this. Mr Prentice will also have a slot for this too.

No one available (staff) to support May procession – thanks to Anne for all her help and appreciate everything Anne and canon bath do for our school

Text reminder to go out to parents regarding family masses and about attending mass the next day after communions

Anne spoke to Canon Bath to discuss the dates for reminders as obviously things get cancelled and have to be changed – Annes solution is that we all know so can cancel texts and Michelle will let readers/offertory know and will put in chapel newsletter about family masses etc. Niamh asked if this can also be sent to Claire at St Paul's, so she has this too as does the St Paul's rota. Family mass on Sunday (P6) and P3 will get a cross at this mass.

8. AOB

Kevin mentioned snacks and healthy eating at school. Rosaleen said it is in school handbook but not always the case. Can work together as Parent Council to address this – used to do stickers for healthy snacks. Selling bananas worked well. Kevin suggested maybe an ideas sheet for ideas of what to give for a snack if kids won't eat fruit

Possibility of a parent coming in to do a talk on how much sugar in the snacks – Jenny will look into this. Louise suggested maybe a treat on the last Friday of the month with a chocolate bar

When will children find out about the teachers? – always very last minute (last week), Rosaleen still unsure of allocation

Old school pictures will stay in hall for Parents' Evening – discussed the possibility of having a community event so everyone can see the photos etc

9. PTA Update

PTA have lots going on – leavers disco, Father's Day – PTA meeting cancelled and will be in touch with more info

PTA desperately need a secretary for minutes, advertising etc – this will be advertised

Will be advertised what the PTA donation will be spent on – still working on this to see what is needed. PTA may also be able to donate some items

Niamh using her kid's sponsorship money to buy wood for the whole school

First Holy Communions - Denise mentioned about the children going up individually rather than as a group as can be hard to see from the back – can speak to Canon Bath to see if can change this

Children's voices of the school

- **I like the P4s – they're kind to my gran**
- **I like playing with my friends and I like my teacher**

- **I like my teacher and doing art**
- **I like the different learning zones**
- **I like playtime and lunchtime**

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Planned Parent Council Meetings 2nd October 2024, 13th November 2024, 29th January 2025, 26th March 2025 and 28th of May 2025