



ST.MACHAN'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

St Machan's Parent Council Minutes

Date: Wednesday 2nd October 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)
Canon Jeremy Bath

PTA Attendees: Jenny O'Grady, Lauren Crawford

Apologies: Niamh Rabey

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Canon Bath
4. HT Report
5. PTA
6. PC/PTA Healthy snack incentive – discuss dates and see about collaborating with other organisations
7. AOB
8. Date of Next Meetings

MINUTES

1. WELCOME, PRAYER AND APOLOGIES

Canon Bath welcome prayer

Jenny welcomed everyone and glad to be back, commented on pictures on display

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved.

Photos - class photos were done after a complaint from a parent that their child hadn't had any class photos due to covid – P4 and P5 will be taken in January along with staff photos – Canon Bath has volunteered to be included in staff photos

3. CANON BATH

Canon Bath mentioned that he can't do Wednesdays – Monday/Tuesday would be best for him but maybe Anne could step in for him. He won't be able to attend the next meeting in November - he mentioned maybe using St Paul's hall but we are keeping in St Machan's staff room for now.

Holy year of Hope starts in the first week of December and carries on until November 2025. Theme of Hope is to provide encouragement as we are still facing anxiety, despair, and uncertainty after covid.

Canon Bath urges us to think about local charities or needs in the community to support both the school & church – last year we supported the primary school in Pakistan. Pilgrimage to Lourdes in the parish being planned. Need to get new lectionaries for school Masses – these can be £700 per set so she will try find a smaller selection – they are needed for the 1st week in December. Jenny suggested joint carol service for the kids with LPS to raise money for the new lectionary. Dates have already been planned for the school and church to collaborate. Family Masses are all planned with children participating more to encourage more families to attend and celebrate together. Communion will be the beginning of June due to Easter being later next year.

All parents will be together for sacramental talk (P3/P4/P7) on one night (21st October.)

Rosaleen mentioned that we have a Faith into Action pupil voice group work that work with the foodbank and the hive – could pass ownership of this to the group and plan nearer the time.

Plans to work with Schoenstatt community to get closer links and to use the Schoenstatt for sacramental learning

Still got some class Masses to do and have things planned for lent and advent, blessing of the crib

Canon Bath is going to push for the Communion breakfast to be the Sunday after communions – not so rushed and all kids together this way

Canon Bath would like to attend the P1 induction day in May

Canon Bath would like the Church of Scotland ministers in to visit the school and will set this up

4. HT REPORT

School improvement plan priorities – circle framework is priority 1. About how school working (all of EDC) towards our environment being an inclusive one. Already started asking the kids about how it is in class, how is it being a learner etc. things such as classrooms being cluttered. Parent Council can help with inclusion by understanding all kids are different and strengthen the messages that parents receive together

Analysis of spelling – kids can be good at spelling tests but not spelling day to day. Increase in kids with dyslexia, is it the way it is being taught and fill in the gaps. FLA will be hosting family fun spelling cafes starting 25th October - chance to come in and see how we teach spelling then possibility of attending a night time workshop. Miss Eusebi is out of class helping with kids showing spelling difficulties/dyslexia using resources to find the barriers. Moderation work with LPS to look at jotters together comparing classes for similarities and sharing methods of teaching practice, Parent Council could attend and complete any questionnaires sent out.

Rebecca spoke about stem science, music/drama/expressive arts curriculum

Opportunity to progress skills in 1 or 2 areas – staff training been done and children will have opportunity to explore the activity through play resources to try and make learning relevant and engaging - gives more ownership for kids to personalise and tie in together such as maths

Meta skills introduced by Rebecca – one week focusing, one week collaborating

Skills learning – transferrable skills are used in employment – this starts at primary school development level (stem) with natural opportunities for creativity and building confidence – still play based even in upper school (building with lego) and the children are in control of the learning. It is inclusive as everyone can have a go – everyone has a try and helps each other

Catholic Education Week is the week beginning 24th November – will be celebrated at all Masses, there will be a talk from St Ninian's and pupils will be involved

Cluster working starting with Catholic schools to improve teaching and learning in R.E – starting this in October in-service day to help teachers improve

Opportunities for classes so far P7 Inverclyde and Clyde in the Classroom, P6 Sky Academy, P6 will have boccia and curling activities and will then run the club for P1 and P2, P5 swimming, P3 Science Centre, P4 forest schools, P6 creative sparks drama (joint with LPS) there will then be a production for parents in town hall, running club is on for P5-7. Active schools will work with us to facilitate new clubs – looking for parent volunteers to run clubs (art/music/fitness/open to idea)

Family learning opportunities – stem project, EDC stem ambassador visits and does workshops with parents with FLA – also coffee morning on a Friday – good feedback but not a lot attending, has guest speakers (the hive, speech and language/sleep Scotland) – family learning is for all families

PTA money has been used to buy playground toys, they are expensive so would be looking for more money if possible and will be worth it – will also be creating a reading den in the old toy shelter

New zones

Skills zone – basketball, football, tennis

Agility zone – pogo sticks, hoppers, skipping ropes

Games zone – jenga snakes and ladders, 4 in a row big games

Chill zone – reading, chalkboards, cushions, artificial grass etc

One class will be in the hall as well to break things up at lunchtime

We had access to the pitch but kids weren't always respectful with coming back to school with timings etc – EDC asked us not to use it as much as well. Just wasn't working every day and wasn't really a treat anymore as they were getting complacent with it. It will be up to teachers when it gets used and will depend on behaviour in class so will be back to having a treat aspect

Twitter – Rosaleen uploads photos and this is why we need permission forms back

Cycling and scooting to school - children need to wear helmets for safety

Parking at 3pm – parents are parking in bus bays, we are putting cones out to stop this and it is working so far – possibility of kids making posters so the message comes from them

5. PTA UPDATE/HEALTHY SNACKS

Discussion of children bringing a healthy snack with a tuck shop on a Friday. Rosaleen suggested starting this around January time (possible new year's resolution). Lauren has looked into health promotion with the health visitor and she will discuss this to get a plan in place and January is ideal for Lauren to plan with health visitor starting with healthy snacks

Friday tuck shop plan – banana sale went well, maybe do oranges, apples next time with the possibility of trying snacks such as cucumber, cherry tomatoes

Emails – mentioned that there are too many emails, is there an option to opt out or have the emails on twitter. Possibility of leaflets going to PTA Lauren and Jenny for flyers, Mugdock etc

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

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