

INVERGARRY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2014, 6.30 PM

Present:	Mrs Kim Bentley Mrs Dee Collins Mrs Lauren Grant	Miss Maria MacRae Mrs Irene Rodgers	Mrs Gayle Rand Ms Soraya Barreno
Apologies:	Mr Clem Farnan Mrs Julie Gilchrist	Mrs Tracey MacCallum Ms Lesley McNeill	Ms Gillian Carruthers Mrs Marion Riddle

Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

School Sign and Gate

Julie did contact Ian Chalmers from The Black Isle regarding a new small gate and the best type of product to use on the existing sign/gate to protect the wood. She is yet to hear back, will chase up.

Action: Julie

After Schools Club (Garry MacKay)

Dee has not yet heard anything from Garry regarding setting this up, to chase for information.

Action: Dee

School Buildings Plan

Kim has not been notified of any schedules/dates for buildings works for the school, but has been told that the feasibility study is in progress.

Nursery Snack Funding

As parents are no longer allowed to be asked for donations specifically for nursery snacks, nursery are using up what is left of previous fundraising efforts to pay for this. There is £45.09 left in the kitty which Dee estimates will last until the end of January. The school is permitted to fundraise for nursery funds (not specifically for snacks) and donations for this would be welcome from parents.

School Website

Although photos are being uploaded to the school website, other areas are out of date (especially the forthcoming events page). Clem is away at present, upon his return Kim will ask for help with bringing this up to date and tidying up the site.

Website address is: www.invergarryprimary.org.uk

Action: Kim/Clem

AGENDA

Head Teacher's Report

The recent Arts Theme Week was excellent, with very positive feedback. There were several visitors to the school, including Room 13 Art Project, Mr McNeill, Eden Court Drama and an excursion to Kingussie where children tried their hand at mono-printing.

The next theme week is planned for the Spring Term, entitled 'Diversity In My Kitchen', to incorporate foods from around the world.

The new three year cycle is starting on the SIP, Kim and staff will be working on putting a calendar in place, for plans to include (amongst other topics):

Fair Trade – a committee after Christmas

Profiling – opportunities for the children to be involved in their own assessments

Speedy Readers – IT programme to reinforce reading skills. However the lack of computer work stations is causing difficulties with this.

Eco Schools – planning meeting to look into using this time more effectively and incorporating more Global Citizenship work.

Kim discussed with the Parent Council the negative effect that the long swimming block each year has on teaching times. She feels that it is no longer feasible to continue with the swimming lessons at the level it is now. Several other options were debated and Kim will be writing to all parents/carers to explain more fully.

Free School Lunches for P1 – P3

The free school lunches cannot be implemented to those schools in the Highland Council that do not have kitchen facilities – despite previous promises, Invergarry will now not be having an upgrade to provide meals. The Highland Council have said that the monetary value of meals will be reimbursed to parents with children in years P1 – P3 at an ‘economic daily rate’. We have no further information as to how this will work, only that it is due to commence in January 2015.

Residential Trip 2015

The residential trip for year P6/7 has been booked at Glencoe for 21st – 24th April 2015, at a cost of £199 plus VAT per place plus transport costs. As in previous years, a £50 donation per child will be asked from families with fundraising in place for the balance and to apply for a grant to cover the transport.

P6/7 children and parents will be running a stall at the Invergarry Christmas Fair on Saturday to help raise funds and the Hamper Raffle at the Christmas Concert is also being organised. Change bags went out to all families and it is asked that these be returned for the end of term (change donations are also being asked for at the filling station and Seven Heads Store).

Skiing 2015

Kim will book the skiing for this year for pupils in P5/6/7, the cost this year is £91 which does include hire of boots, skis and helmets. The preferred option is one day a week over four weeks (weather permitting) on a Friday as previous years. Help will be needed from parents for transportation and supervision.

School Grounds – Parent Working Party

There is no provision for any janitorial duties at Invergarry Primary School, sadly this has a negative effect upon the school grounds with many routine up-keeping jobs not being done – children have been cleaning the burn of leaves themselves to try to prevent flooding. If we could get as many parents together as possible on a Saturday to blitz the grounds this would be beneficial to all. To be carried forward to the next meeting to select a date for the Spring Term.

AOB

Highland Games Donation

Alison Donald passed a message to ask if there was a particular item/project that the school could use a donation from The Highland Games to go towards. There were several suggestions, Kim to think on this and perhaps ask for Children’s ideas. Gayle to forward Alison’s email to Kim for her response.

Action: Gayle/Kim

Road Closure

Matrix signs at Fort William/Inverness had information regarding a road closure at Laggan on Tuesday. This is actually for the A889 Laggan (Newtonmore).

Lunchtime Playground Supervision

The Highland Council policy is for there to be 50 children before provision for a lunchtime supervisor to be put in place. At present staff are covering this. The boundaries around the forest area are mostly intact other than by the new build property. Kim is waiting to hear from Ian Jackson for his decision on whether the children are allowed back into the forest area to play. It is hoped that parents will receive communication from Ian Jackson regarding this matter.

Nuts/Healthy Snacks

There is some confusion as to whether the school is a 'nut-free zone' or not. Also, are there certain rules surrounding what is permitted for a 'paly-piece'? Kim to clarify and report back.

Action: Kim

Notice Board

It was asked if it is possible to have a notice board put up on Amy's Shed? Irene thought she may have one at home. It would be good to also re-paint the shed as it is looking quite tired and tatty. Possible project for the Parents' Working Party.

Action: Irene

Dates for the Diary

School Open Afternoon: 11th December, 2pm

Pantomime: 12th December

Village Childrens' Christmas Party: 13th December

School Concert at the hall: 15th December

Church Service: 19th December, 9.30am

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 22nd January 2015, 6.30pm.

No further business, meeting closed at 8.30pm.