

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 6.30pm**

**Present** – Steven Close (Chair), Marie Campbell (Secretary), Kerry Donald (Vice Secretary) Wendy Williams (Treasurer) Will Hekelaar (Vice Treasurer) Marjorie Anderson, Sarah Irvine, Brian Carle (HT) Miss McPherson (DHT).

**Apologies** – Suzanne Rydlewicz, Lorraine Miller, Louise Herbert, Seonaid Docherty, Kelly Caird, Wendy Clinton, Kim Ritchie, Emma Armstrong, Emma Condon, Caroline Anderson, Sharon Milligan,

**Welcome.**

Steven Close welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies sent were noted.

**Remarks by Chair;**

- The Summer Fayre was a great success, despite the weather, thanks extended to all involved who gave up their time.
- We should have further discussion about our priorities for 2019-2020. The involvement of pupils and parents in the improvement of the school can be very powerful and we look forward to working together on this.

**Treasurer's report;**

- Bank balance £15358.96.
- We have had very successful fundraising year, thanks to all involved.
- The £4 per pupil towards class trip has been well received by teachers and pupils who have been delighted to be all going on school tris this year.
- Summer Fayre made a profit of £5515.58, details under Summer Fayre

**School update;**

- Laura Ramage is looking forward to taking up the DHT post in August, she will visit the school to meet all pupils before the end of term.
- There is a vacancy for an Assistant Early Years Practitioner, lots of interest already, Mr Carle with update.
- Next session there will be 15 classes (14 this year) the current French/Spanish room will be a classroom from August, languages will be taught by Mrs Lott within classrooms. To allow teachers space and peace to work in whilst their class has language lessons, the DHT office is to become a workspace for teachers, The SMT will share Mr Carle's office, this is seen as a positive to allow collaborative work.
- New Machar will welcome two probationer teachers from August.
- Class allocations for next year will be sent home Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Ahead of this Mr Carle highlighted a few points, PC are asked to spread the word on these as school accept that Class allocation can be a point of anxiety for parents. A great deal of time and thought goes into making up

classes, teachers work together to make up their recommendations and the SMT work closely to make up the final classes, factors that are considered may include, reading group, numeracy level, friendship groups BUT this does not mean that children placed in one class with all be working at the same level, on the contrary there will always be a range of abilities in each class. SMT continue to dispel the myth that composite classes are in some way less desirable.

- SMT continue to work on the Curriculum Rationale produced April 2018. It is felt that particularly years groups working on specific themes (Egyptians/Transport) may not have full relevance to the children and so a new approach will be in place. Full details will be shared with parents later but themes will be looked at across the whole school at the same time, this will allow for classes across the school to work together and will give better opportunities for visitors to school. These will work on a three year rolling rota, some initial themes will be “Foo’s yer Doo’s?” and “Far ye Fae?” looking at local history. Staff are excited to get started and doing more team planning engaging pupils in their learning. All Experiences and Outcomes have been bundled to allow for easier planning and delivery. Further information will be given to parents via newsletters and possibly workshops.
- Sports Day will go ahead on 25<sup>th</sup> June unless heavy rain.
- Team sports will go ahead for pupils on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- The new Seesaw App replacing Interactive Learning Diaries will be in use from August, this app is free and much easier to use with a better interface with parents which looks more like a social media feed. Parents are reminded to return the sign up slips as soon as possible please.

### **Summer Fayre;**

- Another successful fayre, no official feedback received from parents but ‘Playground chat’ has been positive and many have commented that it worked well inside the school, It is certainly worth considering holding the fayre inside again even if the weather is fair as it allows much more to be set up on the Friday evening and therefore takes some pressure off the organisers.
- Good number of volunteers this year and those who wanted to get away early were able to do so, well done!
- Profit up this year on last year, mostly due to a reduction in spend, this will continue to be worked on to maintain profit. Wendy will produce a detailed spreadsheet to show individual stall profits.
- All agreed that Bouncy Mania were a hit and great to deal with SI to book again for next year.
- All invoices settled except St Andrews First Aid, MC to chase up.

- Grateful thanks to all volunteers, Parent council and Staff who helped on the day and in the weeks before, it was great to see so many members of staff take part and help!
- Date for your Diary – Summer Fayre Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020!

### **Summer Disco**

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. We need a new volunteer from Parent Council to lead the organisation of Discos, Wendy has offered to cover this one ut going forward it would be great to get someone in place, please speak to Kerry for more info.

### **A.O.C.B.;**

- School are launching a Community Café, this will be open to the whole community and may have different themes depending on the group that are running it, these will take place twice per term. The first one takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 2.30pm, PC are invited to go along to have informal chats with parents to help spread the word about what we do to support the school. Steven and Marie will gather information, but everyone welcome to come along.
- A Christmas fayre is planned for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November to kick start the festivities; this would run from 3.30-7.00pm. This is still in the planning phase and so more details will be given when available. Anyone interested in helping the school organise this event please let Marie know who will arrange meetings with school. This will be a great family event that will give children the opportunity to take part in enterprise activities.
- Letters about school trips (P7 Edinburgh & P6 Ski trip) will go out in plenty time to allow parents to save money for these trips.
- We need to discuss ways to engage better with Parent Council members and the wider Parent Forum, ideas for this will be discussed at our next meeting.

### **Meeting Dates 2019/2020**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 6.30pm

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 6.30pm

Please contact Parent Council on [newmacharpc@gmail.com](mailto:newmacharpc@gmail.com) with any comments or to find out more about our role.