

Minutes PALS Meeting 20 August 2019

Venue: Longstone Primary School

Chair: Cheryl Wood

Attendees: Suzanne McGregor
Amy Menzies
Carole Clingan
Angela Pearston
Martina Proudfoot
Rachel Bonnar
Lee Scoon
Fiona Angus
Karen Jameson
Danielle Ramsey
Niomi Wilson
Nik Hunter
Kelly Hendry
Sheryl McArthur
Phil Murray
Alan Gordon

Apologies: Lauren Knight
Sarah Pietsch
Sabine Donnelly
Nollaig Robertson
Claire Wightman

1. Financial Report

The sports' day bake sale raised £214.01 which will go towards sports equipment for the school.

Since the start of the school financial year (November 2018), £4896.18 has been raised for the school.

2. Head Teacher's Report

Angela started by mentioning what a great support PALS are to the school and thanked everyone for the great turnout at the start of the school year.

Mrs Ross, Mrs Summers and Miss McGovern have all returned from maternity leave. There are various new members of staff, temporary and permanent, including Miss Alexander, who is teaching P3.

Mrs Andrews has retired from the school office so recruitment is in process to replace her. Mrs Westgarth will also be taking some time off soon so other staff have been drafted in to help at the office.

Another 3 PSA's are being recruited for the main school (1 permanent and 2 temporary) and 2 for the nursery.

The pilot project in conjunction with Edinburgh University is progressing well.

Mrs Masson and Mrs Mair have been heading up a re-organisation of the school curriculum, introducing more topics such as social studies, science and technology and food and nutrition, including more local interest.

A pilot has started to move away from golden time which has been viewed as not being effective, especially for SEN pupils. The replacement is called Positive Personal Pursuit time and involves reflection and spending time with the children learning about their interests and achievements outside the school environment.

3. Quiz Night

Quiz night is on Friday 30th August as a fun social event for all the school, including the ex-P7s who are invited back for the occasion.

There will be food available to buy but families are invited to bring their own food and drink.

Volunteers will be welcomed to help with the food service but are not necessary.

4. Nursery

A list of items required by the nursery have been passed to the Business Manager. There have been several discussions as to whether PALS can provide money to help pay for these or whether it would be more cost effective to buy the items for the nursery direct. Angela expressed a preference to go through official channels.

We were looking for ideas to get the nursery more involved in the school fundraising and the following ideas were suggested:

Putting information on the nursery noticeboard about PALS and what we do for the school. i.e. buying rainsuits for nursery pupils.

Asking the nursery for a report to be read out at PALS meetings about what the nursery have been up to.

Have an event aimed at nursery/infants, such as movie night.

5. Farm Project

Parents Alan Gordon and Karen Jameson, who set up the school garden, kindly came along to talk to us about the pilot school farm project.

Alan talked to us about the set up at Canal View Primary School, which he was involved with, and how their project has flourished into an enterprise with input from the community alongside the pupils.

In the first instance this would start small but with the right help could grow into a great asset for both the school and the local community.

The key will be to get pupils, parents, staff involved.

It will also need to be worked out how this fits into the curriculum for each year group. Possibly an after school club could be set up to help.

There is £2000 funding from food for thought that could help funding, along with PEF (Pupil Equity Fund).

It was also suggested that JASS (Junior Award Scheme for Schools) could also play a part.

6. A.O.C.B.

The school garden is always looking for hands to help out with weeding and general maintenance.

Tools could be placed in a box at the main entrance and a sign put up to ask for help. A few parents spending 10 minutes would make a big difference to the garden.

Signs could also be put up in the garden to help identify plants and flowers for people who are unsure.

P1 photo shoot for the Edinburgh Evening News is taking place Wednesday 21 August. There will be copies of the paper available from the school and prints of the photo can also be ordered.

The photo shoot for the whole school will be taken on Monday 9th September.

PALS will cover the cost of 1 P7 hoodie per pupil with parents paying for any extra jumpers required. The hoodies have been ordered and will hopefully arrive soon.

Dogs have been seen in the school grounds and in the nursery. Angela will check the signage on the gates, reiterate in the next newsletter that dogs are not allowed on school grounds and will also remind the nursery staff.

The school Shakespeare performance is on Tuesday 29th October.

The Hallowe'en school disco is on Wednesday 30th October.

P7 camp at Lockerbie Manor has been moved to the week commencing 18 November.

Karen has asked if we could purchase a battery powered strimmer for the garden, which was agreed.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held at Longstone Primary at 7pm on Tuesday 10 September 2019