



PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you all had lovely festive breaks!

The Parent Council met on Monday night for the first meeting of the new calendar year. Our Co-Chairs gave a brief update on what has been keeping them busy since the last meeting. You may have seen advertised that Edinburgh Council are holding meetings to discuss the impact of continued COVID related restrictions which are preventing parents from coming into schools. Parental engagement is widely recognised as being vital to successful educational outcomes and so all parents are invited to join. Our Chairs attended the first meeting and there are two more. The next is on 25th January and the last is on 22nd February, both at 6:15 – 7:15pm. Email SMPC Chairs for the Teams link: smpc_chair@outlook.com

DID YOU KNOW? Parents can help with the recruitment of teachers at senior leadership level. You can be involved in the interview and recruitment process. If you are interested there is a recruitment training session coming up so please email if interested: smpc_chair@outlook.com

Headteacher's Update

There was no headteachers update this time as Mr Urquhart is currently in Lagganlia with the P7's. We hope they are having a wonderful time and look forward to hearing all their stories on their return.

Treasurer

Every year the Parent Council accounts require to be independently examined and the current independent examiner has stepped down. Do you know someone who might be interested in helping us with the role? It does not need to be an accountant but a suitably skilled parent or community volunteer who is not on the PC or related to anyone on the PC.

The role involves:

- **Checking the accounts against main bank statements at the end of the year.**
- **Liaising with the treasurer regarding invoices and details for selected large transactions.**
- **All information is provided by email attachments and correspondence.**
- **The role typically involves no more than a few hours and usually takes place in July or August.**
- **No qualifications are required and there is no liability.**

If you would like more information please get in touch: treasurer@sm-pc.org

Communications Team

The PC website is being updated currently so please take a look and if there is anything you think would be useful to have on our website please get in touch.

comms@sm-pc.org

Clubs

The Clubs team (AKA Alison!) were pleased to report that this term clubs have all restarted. There was a slight delay as the Church halls were opened after Christmas a bit later, but the COVID restrictions that were brought in in December have not impacted on the running of parent council clubs. Under 12s are not required to physically distance from each other and are permitted to take part in indoor contact sports. Current clubs running are recorder, Friday night football, stage club, creative writing, Judo, chanter and drumming. Good news too that there is a new convenor for guitar club! It will run on Tuesdays at Greenbank Church from 1st February!

Going forward this term the Clubs team are going to be carrying out a safeguarding review, including workshopping an updated safeguarding policy, this workshop will be open for any interested parent to attend. More details to follow.

clubs@sm-pc.org

Accommodation

Have you seen the new school recently? It's really looking like a school now! Target completion date for building works on the new building is the end of February. There is no longer a plan to open the nursery in advance of the new building. There is still no word as yet when children will be moved from Deanbank to the new building but there is a meeting on 25th January when we may hear more information, although the most likely estimate is April. The works to Deanbank haven't been put out to tender yet but they are supposed to be completed by August 2023. Any concerns or questions please do get in touch.

accommodation@sm-pc.org

Canaan Lane Team

The newly formed Canaan Lane subgroup met with our co-chairs and representatives from the Council with specific questions posed by parents regarding the creation of the new school and community. The Council accepted the lack of information regarding how the transition to the new school will work has been causing anxiety amongst parents and have committed to be more open with arrangements. Edinburgh council has also committed to meeting with the PC leading up to the new school opening to review implementation and transition plans. Currently they are recruiting for a new Head Teacher and will have more idea regarding number of spaces and how classes will work once they have the numbers of children applying for a place.

If you would like to get involved and keep up to date with the discussion please get in touch.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/390946935775260>

canaanlane@sm-pc.org

Fundraising

We have some GREAT news from the team. Thanks to their hard work and the generosity of the school community last term they raised just shy of £7000! This is amazing considering we have had to adapt without the fairs. The money was raised from calendar sales, the St Andrew's Day fling and from the Hampers. We can't wait to see what ideas they will come up with this term! All monies raised go directly to our children's experience at school... workshops, teachers allocation, books, inclusion places, science week, author visits, ice lollies, food and science technology supplies, classroom resources.....the list is long and makes a huge difference. THANK YOU to all who donated, bought and sponsored. The team regularly meet every month which is open to anyone to drop in. Email for more info.

fundraising@sm-pc.org

Football Request

Bit of a random one but the school football teams which run at Meadowspot need a new storage container! The current one is rusting and causing an eyesore. Do you have any contacts as to how we could help the football coaches to get a new container?

Please get in touch...

smpc_chair@outlook.com

Next SMPC Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 7th March.

As always, we welcome as many parents as possible to attend! Our Parent Council and sub-groups are run by volunteer parents who do their best to try and help enrich our children's lives. If you think you could help at all, or would like to know more about our subgroups, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

smpc_chair@outlook.com

<https://www.facebook.com/southmorningsidepc>

<https://sm-pc.org>.

