**St John’s Primary School Parent Council**

**Annual Report August 2021**

**First Parent Council meeting and AGM will be on**

**Monday 6 September at 7pm. Please come along!**

The Parent Council is comprised of parents from P1-P7, four members of staff, and two co-opted members. Office bearers are the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Web Secretary. All parents are welcome to join the Parent Council, there is no nomination or voting process to become a member.

The Parent Council held their Annual General Meeting on 2nd September 2020 with general meetings during the 2020/2021 school year on 11th November, 9th March and 4th June. Minutes of the meetings are available on the school website. Due to Covid-19 restrictions in place within both the school setting and wider community all meetings were held online and hosted by the school using the Google Meet platform. During the 3rd term children moved to Online Learning and attended live lessons via Google Classroom.

**The role of our Parent Council from our constitution, is to:**

* support the school in it’s work with parents
* encourage links between the school, parents, pupils and the wider community
* represent the views of all parents

**Summary of Information on Parent Council meetings**:

At each Parent Council Meeting, we receive a Headteacher’s update from Mrs Hope and have the opportunity to discuss any matters of concern raised by parents. We have a role in monitoring the performance of the school and supporting improved attainment. The Parent Council also discuss the Fundraising Programme of Events, website content, new fundraising suggestions and plan how school funds should be spent.

The Parent Council has a closed Facebook group which all parents are welcome to join, this can be a useful way of raising issues which you would like to have discussed at the meetings or making suggestions for events. Find us at ‘St John’s Primary School – Hamilton – Parent Council/Forum’.

**Pupil Equity Fund**

St John’s has been allocated annual funding from the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) of £82,000. The fund is distributed by Scottish Government to tackle the poverty related attainment gap. Funds are spent directly by the Headteacher and having consulted with parents for ideas, St John’s have a number of new programmes and staff to achieve improvement.

**Fundraising at St John’s**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions fundraising opportunities were very limited and the usual programme of events, which generally raises around £6-7000 per annum could not take place. Despite restrictions the Parent Council still managed to host two fundraising events: The new ‘Online Christmas List’ successfully raised £678.50 and the Sponsored Event raised £1374. Donations from both were paid directly from donors to the school fund via the Parentpay App. Parent Council fund from the year 2019/20 enabled further contributions of £1000 to the school and an additional £480 for the School Parent App. Details of our events are communicated via our Facebook and if required letters home are also sent to families.

Other areas where funds were spent by the school this year included :

* Playground Equipment (Christmas fundraiser)
* School Parent App
* Gym Matts
* Storage Crates
* Storage Shed
* Thank you flowers for long standing members of school staff

Fundraising has a real impact on the educational experience for the children at St John’s and suggestions for expenditure are always welcome.

**Easy Fundraising**

St John’s is registered with easyfundraising.com. This is an easy way to raise funds for the school, as many major online retailers make a donation every time you make an online purchase. To date this has raised approximately £1500.

**School Website & Communications**

The school has continued to utilise their website, School App for Parents and Twitter as their digital communication platforms for communication with parents/carers. Paper based communication continued to be used when appropriate. During the Online Learning period the Glow platform was used to continue parental communication and parents evening was conducted by telephone. Given the circumstances school/parental communication remained high. The Parent Council primary tool for maintaining communication with the wider Parent Forum is our closed Facebook Group. All documents produced throughout the year are available in the Parent Council section of the school website along with dates of meetings.

**Finally...**

Thank you to all parents for your help, donations and continued support throughout what was a challenging year. We look forward to welcoming new members of the Parent Council at our AGM in September.

**Joanne Carroll**

**Chair of St John’s Primary School Parent Council**

The Parent Council Accounts for 2020/2021 along with all meeting minutes can be found on our Website.

<http://st-johns-hamilton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/parent-council/>