

Machanhill Parent Council Meeting held on 24 March 2025.

Present: Sharon McCallum, Zoe Hughes, Stephen Shields, Ricky Hutton, Sarah Semple, Lynn Hunter, Ana Jornea, Barry Brownlie, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. McLean, and Mrs. Boyle.

Apologies: Emma Thomson, Graeme Clark, Vasile Jornea, Dawn Coffey, Tracy McCranor, and Emma Mackie.

Welcome:

Sharon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Head Teachers Report:

- **Lockerbie Manor:** 40 children attended the experience, with almost all reporting having an excellent time. The exceptional weather allowed for water sports activities that weren't previously offered due to the temperature. The school has booked for 2026 at a similar time, so they hope to continue with water activities.

- **Staffing:** Mr. Hamilton has returned from a period of absence.

- **Cross Country:** We have a team of four children who qualified for the South Lanarkshire final, which will be held at Chatelherault. At the Hamilton schools event, a P7 girl won bronze, and four of the P6 boys won Team silver.

- **Pupil Council:** They have been consulting with the children regarding their new mobile phone policy and hope to share it with parents and gather feedback.

Community Links:

- We have linked with the pastor at the Baptist church to ensure we meet our religious observance obligations in school.

- On a monthly basis, Rev. Scott and Mr. Taylor, his youth worker, visit the children and present at assemblies.

Carpark:

- No further update. HT has contacted the support services coordinator for an update and is awaiting a response.

PEF:

- We are approaching the time of year when we seek input to identify key areas for our PEF.

- The Scottish Government has guaranteed funding until March 2027 at the current rate.

SIP:

- We will soon begin evaluating our progress with this year's SIP and start planning targets for next session.

- Currently, we are considering refreshing our social studies curriculum and exploring ways to improve technology, including sewing, cooking, design elements, and ICT.

- **Twitter/X:-** The school will no longer use this platform to promote events and activities. It will only be used to advise of emergency school closures and other updates.
- - Other options are being considered.

Agenda

Hand Hygiene:

- The issue of improving hand hygiene within the school was raised.
- Mrs. Boyle agreed to review current arrangements and provide more opportunities for lower school children to wash and sanitise their hands.
- Upper school children will be reminded to maintain hand hygiene standards.

Behaviour System:

- Mrs. Boyle explained the reasoning behind the colour-coded behaviour system in place.
- Previously, an increasing number of children were receiving Reflection daily for various reasons, putting unnecessary strain on the school management.
- The new system allows children to reflect and address their behaviours before the end of the school day.
- It also celebrates success and achievements.

P7 Hoodies:

- These hoodies will be distributed early so that they can be used at Lockerbie Manor.
- Next year's P7 parents will be able to make payments via the Parents Portal, allowing for a longer payment period.

The PC decided that the Easter treat for the children will be replaced with a funded Pantomime at Christmas.

The school is currently using QR codes to share images and video clips of children's achievements with their parents. This is being tried as an alternative to traditional methods of sharing successes. Each child's QR code is unique and costs approximately £300.

Discussion centred around sourcing a new gas-fired barbecue. Sharon and Zoe agreed to store the gas. Zoe will follow up with the school and issue a cheque to Cancer Research for the amount raised at Santa's Grotto.

The Summer Fayre on Friday, 30th May, was discussed. PC members agreed on which stalls they will operate at the fayre.

Mrs. Boyle confirmed that Police Scotland will be present at the fayre with officers and quad bikes.

Important Dates:

The next Parent Council Meeting is Wednesday, 30th April, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was closed by Sharon, who thanked everyone for their attendance.