



ST ANDREW'S FCRC PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: 19 November 2024 at 7:00PM
At the school

Attendance:	Apologies:
Kerr Willis (Chair)	
Aziza Walker (Secretary)	Katy Street
Aisling Christie (Headteacher)	Jonathon McMechan
Maarten van der Hoeven (Treasurer)	Animesh Tiwari
Fr. Paul Henderson	
Lianne Donaldson	
	Janie Jones (Early Years)
	Fr. Jamie McMorrin
	Rachael Quinn (Principal)
	Coffey Lai
	Hazel Stothard
	Rebekah Jones
	Lindsey Naidoo
	Martyna Wodzynska
	Justyna Weglarz

1. Welcome	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• -
2. Approval of Minutes	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minutes of meeting 07.10.2024 approved
3. Treasurer's Report	MvdH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eddie signed external reviewer statement• Eddie politely declined gift voucher• Received £223.90 - From the Pre-Loved Sale and Christmas Charity Fair. Thanks Aziza and all our volunteers for their help.• Outgoings £0• Balance £5,978• Minimum balance £2,000• Playground £1,754• Free to spend £2,224• Action points<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Upload accounts to SOCR website• ASDA cash pot<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Currently at £89.80◦ Finishing end of November◦ Payout not till March 2025
3.2 Local Giving membership 17 th Jan '25 renewal		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before end of membership to use the Local Giving website for Christmas donations to Teacher's gifts/Mary's Meals• Then pause membership until it is required again
4. Church update	Fr. P	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fr. Paul visits the school every Thursday afternoon, similar to how Fr. Jeremy used to do this in the past.• PPT presentation as a visual aid for the classes. Stories for the younger classes and factual material for the older classes.• All Saint's Mass went well. Excellent attendance. Thank you to the readers.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Quinn sent a form to families that need assistance. Support from the church to send out 20 vouchers for families for food and gifts. • Sacramental preparations are ongoing • P1/P2 rehearsing nativity at the church • <i>Further details attached at the end of this document</i>
5. Head Teacher update	AC	<p>5.1 Staffing</p> <p>5.2 Head Teacher report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in staff • P1 enrollment is in progress, so once finalised it's required to review class organisation for next session • New PSA who is part of a job creation scheme until March. She works on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. • Outdoor learning day on in-service day was successful • Kid's Bike Life project currently with the P6's and then after Christmas move to the P5's. Great and positive progress with all children, especially those who were beginners • Partnership with Drumbrae Library for classes to visit the library on Tuesdays • Continue meeting groups of children about their learning, their work, school improvement • Pupil Groups - Pupil Council, Pupil Equality Group, Rights Respecting Group, ECO Group, House Captains • Continue Building Resilience - Finished Taking a Moment unit and focusing on Talk Things Over. Making sure everyone has a trusted adult to speak to in school. • Parent Consultations last week went well. Parent survey did not have lots of responses, however there were positive responses, e.g. <i>"Friendliness of the teachers and Parent Council."</i> • School photos and flu vaccinations completed • Coffee morning/Learn Along on Friday • Literacy Book Week Scotland • Catholic Education this week and next week • Christmas upcoming events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Nativity ◦ P7 songs ◦ Class parties ◦ Parent Council Christmas Disco ◦ Christmas Lunch ◦ Christmas Jumper day ◦ St. Kentigern's for Advent • Queries/Outstanding business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Was the timing of the Parent/Teacher meeting in November the right time? Meet the Teacher in October and then Parent/Teacher meeting <i>Response: Everyone happy with the timings. Gives enough time for the teacher and students to build relationship. Also school is good in letting families know if they do have queries they can contact sooner</i> ◦ Has anyone noticed the 20 mph light has stopped functioning? The school is working on it to get it fixed again ◦ Mrs Christie to express with the FC Parent Council the St Andrew's PC are wanting to connect ◦ The children are keen for another basketball net. There is currently a rota with one basketball net to make it fair. It will cost £500 for a new basketball net and installation. Query if the PC and the school can both pay. <i>Response: Mrs Christie to contact to Basketball Scotland for possible funding.</i>

6. Upcoming Events (KW)		
6.1 Christmas Charity Fair and Sumup query	AW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another successful bake sale • The St. Andrew's Volunteer Whatsapp Group has been setup, so much easier to round-up support. Thank you to all our bakers and who volunteered on the day • Thank you to the church for accommodating space for the PC and to the community for their support • Tried to sell the pre-loved clothing at the fair but not as successful due to the variety of sizes available. Items returned to the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aziza asked if possible to use SumUp as another option for payments for future events • Lianne suggested to use QR code version for payments • Aziza to research and Kerr suggested using the QR code at next bake sale
6.2 Pantomime 28 th November (afternoon) £380	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure it is cash payment. Aziza provided cash to the school which the Parent Council reimbursed
6.3 Christmas party on 12 th December 6.3.1 Logistics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aziza leading on this event with a good number of volunteers assisting • Rebekah and Dawn collaborated on Risk Assessment which has been reviewed by Mrs Christie and Nicola (BM) • Permission Form needs to be advertised that it is compulsory to fill in. Sole purpose of the form is to have emergency contact. Aim all submissions collected online only • First aiders assigned - Jonathon and Dawn • Fire Assessment to be reviewed • Front gate open, Entry via Reception, Exit via P1/P2 door • Debbie Tescos provided crisps for all the kids. Need to source any other donations, but otherwise will purchase
7. AOB		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animesh queried about trim trail play area replacement and apply for the Tescos blue coin grant. Animesh to research the application process • Rebekah has submitted for two grants and awaiting for results • Jonathon's work has laptops that can be donated to the PC. Kerr and Jonathon to discuss further
8. Nursery Report	AW (in JJ's absence)	<p>Nursery Report to St. Andrew's Parent Council-November 2024</p> <p>It seems impossible that the calendar year is approaching a close so quickly, but we have enjoyed a very happy and productive first term. The days somehow fly past-it feels as though summer is only just behind us!</p> <p>This is the term where we have our settlers, our returners and not forgetting our movers, who have gone on to Primary One-many of whom we still see and who have taken on school life with amazing resilience and confidence-we are so proud of all our children!</p> <p>We currently have our Early Years Practitioners, Saim and Maureen, supporting the play pedagogy in P1 and the year has got off to a great start.</p>

	<p>In Nursery, our learners have been exploring cultural events and festivals that are important to our families and children, we have been finding out about features of autumn, investigating light and dark and most recently and very suddenly-winter!</p> <p>We have welcomed families and friends for some Stay and Play sessions and in the Foxes Playroom we are about to offer Open Door sessions each Friday morning, where our parents and carers are welcome to stay and join in with some of the routines of the morning.</p> <p>We have been working hard to develop some strands towards early understanding around sustainability and many learners have been making soup, using some of the vegetables donated through Tummies not Trash. The recipes are being printed and given to families as a cookbook for reference to try at home, so we hope our children will lead their learning in this experience, since they have completed it so competently at Nursery!</p> <p>Tummies not Trash has been very kindly donating food to Nursery for well over a year now, but they have finally secured a permanent Hub for deliveries, distribution and collection. The main Hub is based in Gorgie Road, with two local collection points based within Drumbray Library and Corstorphine Community Centre. Now that a main Hub has been secured, we will no longer receive deliveries to Nursery unfortunately, but we have directed families to local pick-up points and are hugely grateful to the organisation for everything they have offered to us in the past.</p> <p>We recently visited our allotment, based within the Walled Garden on Corstorphine Hill and the children were very excited to harvest the last of the veg they have grown, which we took back to Nursery and left outside for families to look at and to share in sampling the last of the produce.</p> <p>We have been so fortunate in securing this garden plot and our wee ones have developed many gardening tips and tricks! The physical experience of participating in this opportunity has been extremely worthwhile for children to learn where our food comes from, taking care of living things and growth and change, which have all been major topics of interest.</p> <p>A special thank you to Aga Dettlaff, one of our fab practitioners, for supporting this work and teaching us how we can grow sustainably from seed to produce as we are already planning next year's sowing and growing calendar!</p> <p>As we look forward to Christmas and all the joy that the season brings, we have applied to Forth One for gifts for families who might struggle this year, which makes a big difference, as they are very generous.</p> <p>Our staff team is holding a Bingo Night to raise funds to buy some Christmas dinners for those unable to afford a festive meal and to subsidise a magic show for the Nursery children as a Christmas treat. We have also linked with West Edinburgh Community Support Group who are able to supply families with food parcels. With these planned supports, we are hopeful that our community will enjoy some festive cheer and confident that there will be something for everyone.</p> <p>Last but not least, we have been actively attempting to re-kindle our Learning Community meetings, where senior leaders in education meet</p>
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		<p>with health and other professionals, to discuss common locality issues and work together to plan and develop an area of learning, in a collegiate way.</p> <p>At last we have identified a date to come together and are very keen to explore ways to involve the wider community, so I will report back following our first meeting and share the discussion! 😊</p> <p>That concludes the Nursery Report for November.</p> <p>Janie Jones Head of Centre Fox Covert Early Years</p>								
9. Next meeting	All	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Wednesday 21st August 2024</td><td>AGM – Tuesday 3rd September 2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Monday 7th October 2024</td><td>Tuesday 19th November 2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 15th January 2025</td><td>Thursday 13th March 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 20th May 2025</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Wednesday 21 st August 2024	AGM – Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	Monday 7 th October 2024	Tuesday 19 th November 2024	Wednesday 15 th January 2025	Thursday 13 th March 2025	Tuesday 20 th May 2025	
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Parent Council St Andrew's Fox Covert 19 Nov 2024

Fr Paul Henderson

Aim of school visits

To impart the basics of Catholic Christian beliefs in an age-appropriate way. Kept Thursday afternoon slot started by Fr Jeremy Milne

Method

Using PowerPoint to teach, using images, usually from beautiful great art, e.g., Fra Angelico, Caravaggio, Tintoretto, etc to teach. Using stories for P1-4 while more fact based for P5-7, asking more complex questions. Subject matter chosen either by season, i.e., All Saints, the 'Dead' in November, or Gospel readings. Angels chosen as references to forthcoming Nativity Play.

Topics discussed with children

Date	Topic
19 September	St Matthew being called, looking at painting
10 October	Story of St Matthew
24 October	Halloween/All Saints, where name comes from; Roman martyrs, death in ancient Rome; Resurrection; Holy People & true Halloween
31 October	Halloween/All Saints; what are saints
7 November	Saints: Carlo Acutis; the boy he saved; churches built over bodies of saints, St Peter's; resurrection and Turin Shroud;
14 November	Angels, what they are and what they do; three Archangels; Guardian Angels; Angels in the Jesus Nativity

Highlights

Class P6 and P7 on 24 October where presentation generated very interesting question and 14 November where P1-3 interested by storytelling format.

All Saints Mass at St John the Baptist; Impressed by how well behaved the children were and excellent readers.

Christmas Vouchers

SVDP has vouchers for 20 families, £50 each. Vouchers will be put with greeting card and taken to school prior to Christmas break. The school will add the family names to the vouchers.

Sacraments

13 for Reconciliation and HC, 7 HC and 12 for Confirmation from St Andrew's. First Reconciliation 26 March 2025, St John's, First Holy Communion, 7 June 2025, St Kentigern and 14 June 2025, St John's, and Confirmation at 2 June St Kentigern.