



ST ANDREW'S FCRC PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: 20 May 2025 at 07:00PM
At the school

Attendance:	Apologies:
Kerr Willis (Chair) Aisling Christie (Headteacher) Maarten van der Hoeven (Treasurer) Aziza Walker (Secretary) Lianne Donaldson	Fr. Binu Palakapally Rebekah Jones Hazel Stothard Jonathon McMechan Rachael Quinn (Principal) Coffey Lai Janie Jones (Early Years) Laura van der Hoeven

1. Welcome	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• -
2. Approval of Minutes	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minutes of meeting 27.03.2025 approved
3. Treasurer's Report 3.1 Account update	MvdH	<p>Balances 20/5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Account £3,276• Savings £3,764 <p>Account Money in:</p> <p><i>April</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Localgiving £67.31• Easter trail £30• Easter bake £91 cash transfer / £88.18 SumUp <p><i>May</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stripe £62.71 <p>Money out:</p> <p><i>May</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deposit £30 church hall <p>Savings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £3.09 interest• £2.58 interest <p>To be received</p> <p>£200 abrdn matched funding</p> <p>Proposal for Mr Wippy to treat all children to ice-cream on the last day at school Council approval?</p> <p>PC approve / Mrs Christie to check if it is OK. Possibly the last Wednesday of the term and do a picnic up the hill. The ice-cream truck to be available that day. To cater for 174 x students and ??? x staff</p> <p>Playground fund - We discussed the playground fund being eroded by inflation and recommended the PC releases the funds so the children can benefit before the school playground is destroyed by the new school construction activities. We agreed to use some funds for Mr Whippy ice cream for all children..</p> <p>Any costs/expenses as 31 July is the end of the financial year.</p>

		<p>P7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter sent out of the activities the school are to organise. • Specified the School not to organise a night activity. • A trip to Ryze, pizza and drink on Monday 23 June • Ryze £10 per child / Bus £200 / Pizza & drink • Donation from St Vincent de Paul and PC to contribute, so costs are covered <p>Other school trips to be covered, where funds are available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed £12 per child. • Costs are covered for trips, where funds are available. For example, P1 - Edinburgh Zoo, P3/P4 - Museum, P5 - Dynamic Earth, etc. • Aisling to ask David to forward an invoice to Maarten to give an idea of costs per child <p>Fruit basket costs covered - £8.70/per week. Still very much in need of it. Laura van der Hoeven to hopefully have an approved grant to cover that</p>
4. Church update	AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 June - Confirmation (11 x students) • 7 June - First Holy Communion (2 x students in a different church and 6 students at St Kentigerns) • 13 June - Leavers Mass • Hoping to do a pilgrimage for the jubilee to have a picnic and sing songs, but the events forms for Lauriston Castle is proving to be difficult. To revisit for September. • Fr. Binu continues to visit every Thursday
5. Head Teacher update 5.1 Staffing	AC	<p>PSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One PSA was on a fixed-term contract and has since left for another post. • New PSA, Emma Kelly, will start on 2 June, working 20 hours per week. • Total of 7 PSAs. <p>Teaching Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing remains the same. • Awaiting confirmation on one teacher currently on a career break. • Hoping to find out which teacher will be assigned to the new classes. <p>P7 leavers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piper organised • Red carpet recycled from last term • Leavers mass / Assembly • Tea and coffee with parents/carers • Fun day at Ryze, pizza and drink. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rebekah to chat to Dominos / Pizza Huts • Balloon arch - Aziza donated a paper arch in hope it can be a recycled item per term <p>Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 May - Outdoor Parent Learning session • Coffee morning happening beforehand - Lianne/Aziza and Mrs Quinn to organise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P1- Sunflower planting at the sand pit area ○ P2-Bug hunting at Nessie ○ P3-Bug hunting at Nessie ○ P4-Nature Art in the Wildlife garden ○ P5-Clay bugs-Picnic tables ○ P6-Loose parts-by the Basketball hoop ○ P7-Loose parts- by the Basketball hoop • Get Active / Resilience Unit

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Step Count - Cash 4 Kids ○ £250 raised - Half went to Ceruleans and other half went to Maggies Cancer ● P5 group to participate in an engineering competition ● P7 STEM project ● Some P7 pupils competing in Interscholastics event on 26 May. P6's to have a turn next term ● Small pupil group Rights Respective School Conference with Mrs McBirnie ● P7 Events ● Two masses - Ascension and Leavers ● 5 June - Sports Day ● Coaches coming to do for dance, karate and basketball tasters with classes ● Bikeability for P6 and P7 – Extra cycling sessions from Bike Station for kids who need the extra practice for another 4 weeks ● P1 Induction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lianne to ask Victoria - After School Club to be present to answer questions ○ Aziza and Lianne to represent PC. Aziza to put a slide or two to present. <p>Supported Self Evaluation Report Feedback</p> <p><i>Strengths and Next Steps</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><i>The team found the following strengths in the work of the school:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Head Teacher has an accurate view of the school, has high aspirations for all with a clear vision for improvement and is beginning to develop a whole school collaborative approach to leadership at all levels. ● The school has a strong focus on developing positive relationships resulting in a caring and nurturing ethos across the school, built on Gospel values. ● Learners are positive about their learning and about their school and demonstrate a high level of awareness of the values which underpin the school. ● Senior leaders and staff have a very good understanding of their school context and are committed to improving the life experiences and chances for all children. </div>
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			<p><i>The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As planned, the school should now review the vision and values with all stakeholders to ensure that it reflects the life and ethos of the school. The St. Andrew's Fox Covert 'Learners', learning and teaching policy, is in its infancy. Senior Leaders and school staff should develop this further to ensure they build on the strong foundation it provides to ensure a quality and consistent structure to learning experiences from P1-P7. Senior Leaders and teachers should continue with their focus on wellbeing and children's rights, establishing how they would want to see these articulated within lesson-based learning, and underpinning the curriculum. As planned, Senior Leaders should further develop their year-round approach to tracking and monitoring to ensure that interventions are having an impact on learners' attainment. 						
6. Misc									
6.1	Easter trail	AW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback was positive Ideal to try and do that again next year Thank you to Kerr and Aziza 						
6.2	P7 leavers arrangements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed earlier in 3.1 and 5.2 						
6.3	Chairperson position		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position yet to be filled from October 2025 No-one present in the meeting to step forward Continue to advertise to existing parents/carers via Classlist and P1 induction 						
6.4	AGM dates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next AGM to be presented September and then need to be filled by the next PC meeting in October Chairperson to be filled / Re-election of Secretary position and Treasurer position Kerr to forward proposed dates for AGM and meetings for the term 2025/2026 to obtain the Let 						
6.5	Future events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion of the Halloween event as a possible event. A discussion of date (TBA 23 October) and location (TBA - Hall or Walled Garden). If it doesn't happen the success of the Crazy Hair Day will happen again Ceilidh Kids for St Andrews Day Keen for Corstorphine Fair which will happen in 2026. Kerr to contact Chris about applying for it. Possibly put a tombola table. Collection of unwanted gifts. 						
7. AOB	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lianne to set up easyfunding where people can shop online into free funds for the school. Similar to AmazonSmile that was used many years ago. 						
8. 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 27th March 2025</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 27 th March 2025
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Nursery Report to St. Andrew's Parent Council-May 25

Always a busy term and this one is proving to be no exception!

We do not have quite as many leavers this year as in recent previous years but it is still very important to make sure we have prepared our learners as far as possible, which is always a priority during these last weeks of their Nursery experience.

Many remaining children will also be moving up to new playrooms and they have begun exploring their new spaces in a more minor transitional phase.

Our main focus for learning this term has been new life, growth and change, as we support our learners through opportunities such as caring for duck eggs as they hatched here and subsequently helping to care for the new chicks, along with stick insects, ants and butterflies, looking at lifecycles and baby animals and then considering how this might relate to our own growth and change.

It is always such a special time of year as our school leavers become very clearly, 'the big ones' and take on additional responsibilities, as we watch them evolve into very capable and confident beings, all ready for the challenge of school. I must admit that this process of saying goodbye to our leavers never gets any easier and between parents, carers, children and staff, Graduation Day tends to be quite an emotional affair!

We have been advised of an Early Years review, which has recently begun in Edinburgh, with a focus on delivery models. The proposal is that the term time placement will remain, alongside a 48-week model (rather than the current 50 weeks of 1140 government funded hours) where many current full-year settings will in future be automatically closed over Easter and Christmas. There will also be a 46-week model, where the majority of settings would be open for 46 weeks and closed at Christmas, Easter and two weeks over the summer.

Current settings which are only open during term times, will extend their opening to 46 or 48-week opening and there will be scope, where space allows, for parents and carers to purchase any additional hours they require, either on an 'ad-hoc', or on a rolling year basis. The proposed move date for this element to come in will be August 2026, however, Christmas closures for the 46/48-week settings will be effective from this December.

Fifty current full-time settings will reduce to twenty and thankfully, our setting's full-year service will remain unchanged.

These changes are designed to offer families greater flexibility and during closure, children requiring care would then move temporarily to open settings, such as ours, transferring across with some of their staff members., to support continuity of care.

Along with offering our term-time families paid holiday hours, this will mean the Nursery will be far busier during school holidays, which is far more beneficial for children attending. Some staff contracts will change in the affected settings and this will be supported through the Unions and HR.

However-we are delighted that there are no current, planned changes to our service at this time, though we recognise the importance of offering flexible early learning and childcare to meet ever-changing needs around family working lives and the impact of Covid upon an increase in home working.

It is hard to believe that our Nursery celebrates our ten-year anniversary this year and we are planning a last Fun Week of this term, with a staff Bingo Evening planned for August. We have come such a long way from where we started, as we were

the first of the 'new builds' and featured on the local STV news bulletin at the time! As we have become more established over the years, our aim is to move further back into a community hub direction.

As of next session, we will be establishing our own Nursery Parent Council, so will no longer attend these school meetings-however it is vital that we continue working together as a Learning Community and campus partners-we will ensure that we remain committed as we always have been.

I wish to say a huge thank you for your partnership and warmth over this past year and my love and appreciation goes to all for welcoming me into PC meetings over the months and years of Nursery reporting.

That concludes our update for this evening. Thank you.

Janie

Janie Jones, Head of Centre

Fox Covert Early Years, May 2025