



Parent Council Newsletter 19 June 2023

It was our last meeting of the school year and there was lots to discuss!

Following some feedback, it was agreed that Parent Council meetings will run from 7-8pm going forward to enable as many people as possible to attend. These will continue to alternate between online and face-to-face at Comiston Road. Dates of our meetings next year will be published on the Parent Council [website](#) soon.

Following a meeting with the Council, there is some progress in relation to dealing with the poor state of the toilets at Comiston Road. The Parent Council has drafted a letter to send to the Council, which we hope will increase the pressure on them to make some much needed improvements, particularly since the site will be used for early years children shortly.

On a positive note, with help from a parent, a new container has been sourced for Meadowspot – hooray! The school football teams are hoping to secure a grant to have the new container painted.

Finally, there may be an opportunity for the Parent Council access additional grant funding – if anyone has any ideas about how we could utilise any additional funding, please get in touch!

chair@sm-pc.org

Depute Head Teachers Update

Mrs Jones gave a comprehensive overview of progress so far in relation to the school's improvement plan and changes we can all expect to see coming up.

One of the main things the school wants to focus on is stability, particularly in relation to staffing and retaining its existing talent. On a positive note, Mr Kiln, Miss Arbuckle and Mr Craddock will all be staying on into next year. Mrs Jones also shared that she will be staying in place as Acting Depute Head as Mrs Morgan's secondment has been extended. South Morningside will also have three newly qualified teachers in the next academic year.

Mrs Jones explained that budgets are very tight this year and that a £46,000 saving needs to be made by SMPS. In terms of the annual budget, when staffing and other costs are taken into account, only £10,000 is now left to spend on stationery, text books etc. Mrs Jones expressed how grateful she is to the SMPS parent body for its help and support in raising additional funds for the school.



The school is keen to build up a bank of volunteers who can help out with various jobs in and around the school. Mr Gillies is putting together a list of things, which he plans to share shortly!

Mrs Jones explained that the school is keen to hear the voice of students, for example, the recent consultation about bringing back the school bell - 86% of children were supportive of it.

Going forward, there will be a focus on quality assurance and sharing best practice. Recently, the school has achieved terrific ACEL (Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels) results - reading, writing, listening & talking and numeracy 'organisers' – with the results being much higher than anticipated.

Treasurer's Update

The Parent Council currently has a surplus of about £40,000 although some final adjustments are being made to close out the year.

Apologies if you are still waiting for a refund from the cancelled quiz night – these are still being processed and will be completed asap!

treasurer@sm-pc.org

Clubs

Clubs planning for 23/24 is well underway. All clubs will resume on Monday 4 September, with the exception of Stage Club, which will resume on Friday 1 September. We are also pleased to be able to confirm that Sounds Like... music sessions will continue to run on Friday afternoons as well as Stage Club. Look out for a flyer publicising which clubs will be running next year! Thanks to all of our clubs convenors this year and to those who are volunteering for the first time next term! The clubs couldn't run without you!

clubs@sm-pc.org

Transport Team update

A meeting has taken place between Edinburgh Council and the SM Parent Council regarding active travel and our road safety campaign. The group are planning to launch a competition for the children to design a banner promoting road safety.



Following a successful campaign to have Canaan Lane closed to through traffic, the Council have still not put this in place. The Parent Council has requested that this is actioned by August for when children return to school after the summer break.

The Transport group also updated that some improvements to the junction at Greenbank Terrace have been put out to tender. However, unfortunately not much progress had been achieved in relation to widening the pavement or in relation to moving the bus stop outside the school.

transport@sm-pc.org

Accommodation Team Update

The Accommodation team are continuing to look at progressing playground improvements and have been reaching out to various stakeholders including meeting with the school and a number of other interested parties to look at potential near-term jobs which could be actioned including weeding and painting.

Following this, a family fun day is planned on **Saturday 19 August from 11am – 2pm** to bring the community together and to make improvements to the playground. Help with weeding and painting is needed from as many people as possible. Activities for the children and refreshments for all will be available - more details to follow!

accommodation@sm-pc.org

Fundraising

The summer fair raised over £5,000! A big thank you to everyone who pitched in to help out – it wouldn't happen without the army of volunteers who baked, ran stalls, sold tickets and helped organise the event. And a BIG thank you to everyone who came along on the day.

We are also pleased to confirm that the Virgin Money event facilitated by the school also raised £1,500!

Dates for your diary!

Quiz night (rescheduled) – Thursday 28 September

Halloween Disco – Thursday 26 October (NEW DATE)

Christmas Fair – Saturday 2 December



Please come along to show your support and help raise money for the school community so that all children can enjoy additional events, trips and equipment.

fundraising@sm-pc.org

Communications Team

We recently designed a leaflet to publicise more about what the Parent Council does and how you can get involved. If you would like a copy or are able to share the leaflet with any new parents/carers to the school or anyone who is thinking about helping out, please let us know.

comms@sm-pc.org

Next SMPC Meeting

Next year's meeting schedule will be published asap!

To find out more about the Parent Council or to get involved, please come along to a meeting or email our chairs at chair@sm-pc.org.

“you’ve got to create what you want to be a part of”

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