



### Parent Council Newsletter 6 March 2023

The subject of transport featured heavily at the last Parent Council meeting. The Transport group have put together a series of proposals following the recent travel survey to parents. More information about the proposals is provided in their update below.

As well as that, there were some important updates from Mrs Canning, who attended her last SMPS Parent Council meeting. We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Canning for all her support and for providing a stable platform while the Council, with support from the Parent Council Co-Chairs, undertook the recruitment exercise to find a new Head Teacher.

We are still looking for more people to volunteer to help out with the Parent Council and particularly for the start of the new school year, when a number of existing Parent Council members are due to step down. If you can help at all, please get in touch to ensure that Parent Council can continue to support and make a difference to all of our children.

[chair@sm-pc.org](mailto:chair@sm-pc.org)

### Head Teachers Update

Mrs Canning gave an update that the new Head Teacher, Mr Gillies, should be in post in time for the next Parent Council meeting. A provisional start date of Thursday 30 March has been given but this will be confirmed in due course.

Mrs Canning also referenced the ongoing issues of out of school care since Spring Oscars took over at SMPS, the challenges recruiting qualified staff and acknowledged the issue this has created for parents. She updated that MSP Daniel Johnson is due to meet with Spring Oscars to discuss the concerns further.

As many people will now be aware, the industrial action planned for 16 & 17 March has now been suspended while we await the outcome of the recent pay ballot.

Mrs Canning updated that the questionnaire that had been issued about how the school reports to parents has had 138 responses. Mrs Canning is collating the information, which will be passed to Mr Gillies to take forward.



Everyone is really looking forward to the P7 stage club performance of Carly and the Chocolate Factory, which takes place this week! We are very excited to see it!

Finally, Mrs Canning wished to thank all parents and carers for their support and for making her feel so welcome at SMPS.

### PVGs

Craig Hilton, SMPC's Lead PVG signatory, attended the meeting to talk about the importance of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. PVG checks were introduced as a control to keep children safe as they identify if the people involved in caring for our children have a history of harmful behaviour.

Craig is retiring soon and is looking for more help to undertake PVG checks on behalf of the Parent Council. The checks can now be done online and so very little time commitment is required (we usually receive about one check request per month and the process takes about 15 minutes). Help with answering queries and auditing who the Parent Council holds PVG checks for are also jobs that would really help. Volunteers don't need to be Parent Council members or have any specialist knowledge of the PVG scheme.

Please get in touch if you think you can help!

[pvg@sm-pc.org](mailto:pvg@sm-pc.org)

### Clubs

Clubs updated that they are looking to broaden out the support offered to families with children with special needs as well as those requiring financial assistance.

They are looking for someone with design and/or marketing experience to help them with pulling together list of the clubs available and what they offer. There are also a number of little tasks that need to be done to support the running of clubs.

If you think you can help with any of this, please get in touch!

[clubs@sm-pc.org](mailto:clubs@sm-pc.org)

### Transport Team update

The Transport Group updated that, following the travel survey, they wanted to put forward four key proposals. The first two require the support of the school and the second two, the support of the Council. The proposals are:



- 1) To hold 'travel safety' awareness days/events for children
- 2) To ask children to create large banners to promote safer travel (one for Comiston Road and one for Canaan Lane)
- 3) To close Canaan Lane permanently to traffic (planters could be put at the end of the lane)
- 4) Create a safe route to Braidburn valley park by making Greenbank Terrace safer.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> suggestions were considered priority by parents following the survey.

These proposals will now be put forward to the relevant authorities.

[transport@sm-pc.org](mailto:transport@sm-pc.org)

### Accommodation Team Update

The Accommodation group updated that, following a meeting held with the Council at the start of February, a letter has been issued to parents explaining how the children from SMPS and CLPS will be split up at the Canaan Lane site.

The old Deanbank building is unlikely to be ready to accommodate children in August 2023 following the identification of some structural issues and so SMPS P1 and P2 will continue in the Canaan Lane building for the year 2023-24, with decisions then taken on what happens in 2024.

The Council has updated that no budget is currently available to make alterations to the Comiston Road site to accommodate younger children, however this is a key priority for the Parent Council and one that we will continue to press the Council on.

A number of parents have expressed interest in fundraising to improve the playground and so this may be an opportunity to improve this aspect of the school for children, for example through landscaping, which could be undertaken over the summer holidays.

If you have any ideas or think you can help out, please contact the Accommodation group.

[accommodation@sm-pc.org](mailto:accommodation@sm-pc.org)

### Fundraising

Fundraising are planning lots of fun events for children and adults! This term, a spring disco for children is planned as well as a quiz night for adults. The quiz night



will be hosted by Dougie Robertson on 28 April and is sure to be a fantastic night that you won't want to miss so put the date in your diary!!!

The fundraising team are also starting to think about a summer fair and will confirm a date as soon as possible.

One of the things the Parent Council is looking to fund is more play equipment at the Canaan Lane site for SMPS children. The equipment can then be brought up to Comiston Road when the children transfer.

We always need volunteers to help with our fundraising activity – if you can spare a bit of time to help, please get in touch!

[fundraising@sm-pc.org](mailto:fundraising@sm-pc.org)

#### Communications Team

Communications are looking to issue out an updated leaflet to parents to explain a bit more about what the Parent Council does and how you can get involved.

We're still looking for some help with administering SMPS's Facebook account. If you can spare some time to help with this and keep our socials alive, please let us know!

[comms@sm-pc.org](mailto:comms@sm-pc.org)

#### Next SMPC Meeting

The next meeting will be held in online on 24 April.

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

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

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# ***PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE***