

Class Reps Meeting

September 30th 2024

Co-chairs: Gemma and Kerry-Anne

Secretary: Fergus

AGENDA

01 - Presentation

Who we are, which class we represent, etc.

02 - What is the TPC and what is its purpose

Communications with the school, financial support for school projects, etc.

Which days Gemma and Kerry are available (when are Facebook posts approved, whatsapp conversations etc.)

03 - What is the purpose of class reps

Communications: such as from school to parents, or passing on class issues, questions, ideas, suggestions, etc.

04 - What's app and Facebook communications

What is permitted, what is not, and why.

05 - Our website and notice board (Fergus)

Purpose, access, content

06 - Dates for your calendar : Class rep meetings, AGM, TPG, Fairs, Residential, Lyceum etc.

List of dates to be distributed on the day + through whatsapp communications to all our classes

07 - Fundraising & Volunteering opportunities(Clare) : Ceilidh, fairs, etc.

Dates and organization + We need a team to push forward all things fundraising and to help organize the Ceilidh.

09 - Wild Garden update (Kate)

Next steps + what's happening with the sensory garden planters/ area?

10 - School lunches

What is the issue and what are the proposed solutions

11 - Toilets: let's email the council! (email TBC)

12 - Extra Theatre (Katie) *Absent to be voted at AGM*

14 - Uniform and possible new supplier (Pippa) <https://www.koolskools4u.co.uk/>

Discussion Notes

1. Introduction
 - a. Present
 - b. Kerry-Ann, Cara, Neil, Kate, Josie, Hannah, Lindsay, Sorcha, Rosie, Alison, Pippa, Sarah, Alex
2. TPC and it's purpose
 - a. Most things that happen outside the school hours are funded by the TPG
 - i. For example school residentials cost ~~£20k per year~~
 1. Clarified by Mr Friend "in order that all children can go regardless of the families ability to pay we operate subsidised places. The cost of covering this support varies each year but is approx. £16K. The residentials each cost about £35-40K."
 - ii. P1 classroom smart screens needed repairs
 - b. Funding
 - i. Under £250 class reps can vote on it
 - ii. Over £250 must be voted at a TPG meeting and every parent gets a vote
 - iii. Whenever money spent good to communicate to the classes via WA groups
3. Purpose of class reps
 - a. Class reps are to help communicate between parents and the school and to somewhat moderate the Whatsapp groups
 - i. If you get any challenging discussions or not sure what to do the group is here to support you
4. Facebook and WhatsApp groups
 - a. Facebook
 - i. No advertising - activities, etc
 - ii. It's a place to communicate what's happening in the school
 - iii. Noticeboard on the website can have that stuff
 - iv. Gemma and Kerry-Ann approve posts and can't do it every day
 - b. WhatsApp group
 - i. OK to have disagreements and frustrations but aggressiveness is not OK
5. Website
 - a. Vision is that the website should be useful, relevant source of information that's useful for parents
 - b. Should have latest meeting minutes and accounts so everyone has visibility of what's happening if they need it
6. Dates for calendar

- a. AGM, TPG meetings and class rep meetings are all planned and dates are on the website
- 7. Fundraising
 - a. First event is Ceilidh in the town hall on Sat 1st Feb (same day as Scotland/Italy 6 Nations match)
 - b. Christmas fair, summer fair, halloween disco, summer disco
 - i. They're parent led and supported by the TPG
 - ii. One issue why discos are hard to find volunteers for is that you can't bring your child with you when you volunteer
 - iii. Have we looked at alternative venues? Potentially the town hall could be investigated
 - iv. Could we explore improving how we communicate about volunteering
 - v. Volunteer opportunities could be put on the website along with a form to register for volunteering
 - vi.
- 8. Wild garden update
 - a. £6,000 was committed last year and £1,400 was spent on Learning through Landscapes to interact with the children on what they'd like from the space
 - i. Stage area and pond area
 - ii. Clarified by Mr Friend "Learning through landscapes consultation work with children cost about £500"
 - b. Edinburgh Tool Library has offered to help build the stage and are coming to look around the space and what's required
 - c. No one project managing it at the moment - Hannah knows Suz who could get involved
 - d. Learning Through Landscapes sessions were really useful but the report was a bit disappointing - no concrete next steps and plans of what's to happen next
 - i. Not sure what the details of the original brief were
 - ii. Not sure who is the client
 - e. Roles and responsibilities of meeting commitments of what we say we're going to do and how we're managing the money
- 9. School lunches
 - a. Some children are not getting enough lunch so the school are going to order 4 extra lunches
 - b. ~~No teachers in the lunch hall during lunch time~~
 - i. Clarified by Mr Friend "Lunch hall is always supervised by a member of the Senior Leadership team. We have a rota and one of us is in there everyday with all the PSAs who are supporting individual children. On the day of our rota we also patrol the playground."
 - c. Sometimes office staff help organise but no management/oversight of what's happening
 - d. Used to be a food committee but we've complained so much that the council or the suppliers don't want to hear from us

- i. Council members came in and had to eat the lunch, MSPs were potentially involved
- e. Food improved after that action and is better now
- f. New serving lights this year to keep the food warmer

10. Toilets

- a. Buildings are looked after by CEC, Mr Friend is the client of the council so can raise issues with the CEC
- b. Two issues
 - i. Not enough cleaners, often short staffed
 - 1. Requested to have the cleaners come earlier so that they are present during the school day
 - ii. Small group of boys were vandalising the toilets during the first 5 days of school which has now been stopped
- c. TPG could support it even though it's not morally what we should be doing
 - i. Hard to employ someone so it's not easily feasible
- d. Can we work with our children on improving the toilet hygiene and practices
 - i. Parents can discuss and teach how to keep toilets clean with their children
 - ii. Can the school also support with that on how to keep the toilets clean
 - iii. Last year the school did education and posters, perhaps had a small impact

11. Extra theatre

- a. Katy organised it last year, we voted on it and paid for it and it happened and it was a big success
- b. It was for the whole year but possibly not for P5s so need to make sure the shows are suitable for all kids

12. Uniform and possible new supplier

- a. New supplier which are ethically sourced but more expensive
- b. Could we offer both
 - i. Yes but might create disparity between better and worse
- c. Could we vote on it
- d. Could we also open this up to a wider review of how we operate the uniforms
- e. Seems like a good to great opportunity where the uniforms are currently good but could be better
- f. Pippa, Fergus and Cara can meet to chat about how to make the operation work more efficiently

13. AOB

- a. Governance
 - i. Can we have better governance of the TPG
 - ii. Josie and Kate can help with that

Actions

- ☐ Add link to TPG website from school website and vice-a-versa
- ☐ Could newsletters link to website
- ☐ Clarity on website that fairs/discos are parent run
- ☐ Important dates on the website and then share on WA
- ☐ Volunteering opportunities on the website with dates and what's required for a commitment
- ☐ Josie, Kerry-Ann and Claire meet to create content for volunteering plans - overview of all the opportunities and what's required
- ☐ Pippa, Cara and Fergus meet to discuss uniform improvements
- ☒ ~~Communication to parents about discussing issue of toilets, what's been done so far and what parents can do to help~~
- ☐ Communication to parents about discussing issue of school meals, what's been done so far and what parents can do to help
- ☐ Push forward theatre plans for all pupils
- ☐ Josie and Kate to work on governance of the TPG