



Partnership Group
Minutes
22nd January 2025



Present

Office bearers:	Staff:	Attendees:
Mrs E Dempsie (Chair) Mrs L Lockhart (Treasurer)	Mrs W Gallacher (Acting Headteacher) Mr S Hall Church representative: Mrs V Stewart	Mrs S Taggart Mr C Gibney Mr S McBride

1. Welcome & apologies

Mrs Dempsie welcomed all. Apologies received from Mr S Smith, Mrs A White and Mrs M Donnellan.

2. Actions from previous meeting (not covered by other agenda items)

- **Christmas Fayre Report (£857.80 profit)**

The Christmas Fayre was a very successful day with a great profit. We would like to thank everyone for the amazing support and help to make it a great day.

3. Headteacher's report

- Attachment Accreditation

St John's are thrilled that we have achieved our first Attachment Accreditation - Pledge 1 - Act to Make a Difference.

- Reading Schools Award

We have now received our Reading Schools Award. Thank you to all the staff for working with the children to achieve this.

- Use of X

With the pause on the use of X, Mrs Gallacher will do a weekly newsletter (SWAY) rather than monthly.

- School Calendar

We have a very busy term ahead, preparing our P3s for Reconciliation and P7s for Confirmation. We have several exciting activities too including - Burns' Day Celebration, Health Week, World of Work Event, whole school trip, walking art gallery, parents' evening, parental engagement projects, P6/7 Menshed project and Lenten fundraising.

- Absences

The school are continuing to monitor absences and work in partnership with families to support children and improve attendance. The Holy Cross Learning Community will be working together to create a consistent policy on supporting attendance.



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- School Improvement

We are making good progress with our School Improvement Plan Targets:

Priority 1 - Inquiry Based Learning

There was a whole school launch of our Inquiry Based Learning Project - children are engaging well with this. Mrs Kelly is working on trackers and planners to capture the learning with a systematic approach. Children are recording their journey of learning using Floorbooks.

Priority 2 - Maths Recovery

Mr Hall has completed his maths recovery training. Mrs Kelly, Mrs Reid and Mrs McKie have all begun their training and will complete this by June. Staff are using strategies and approaches in class to support engagement and understanding.

Priority 3

As mentioned, we have received our Attachment Pledge 1 Accreditation. This term P5-7 will be piloting new Anti- Racism resources - this will be piloted across the Learning Community and staff will evaluate the resources with children once these are completed.

Mrs Gallacher continues to explore the UNCRC through whole school assemblies.

4. Treasurer's report

We currently have £4094.29 in our account (£2500 of this is for the garden grants, which leaves £1594.29 for the group to use). The £450 for the panto bus has now been paid too.

5. Future Fundraising Ideas/Planning

- Apply to be part of the token bank at Tesco (speak to Nora)
- Summer fayre (similar set up as a few years ago using school grounds and chapel hall)
- School summer disco (potentially 19.06.25)
- Co-op membership card (when used this can raise points for the school)



- Easyfundraising App was discussed as it connects to lots of different companies (Morrisons, Tui, JD Sport, M&S and lots more) and donates money to the school when you purchase things online



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6. School Garden Update

- Work now completed near the phone box with the area in front of the church garage completely replaced with sandstone slabs and dug out so as to enable a gazebo to be built as per the children's request.
- Statue of Our Lady has paint flaked off and will need replaced.
- Next step is for Mrs Stewart to meet with the pupils to see what they would like to add to the plans.
- Wullie Peat (who did the work recently to the garden) is donating paint for the potting shed.
- The roof of the potting shed will be replaced with a new living roof in the coming weeks.
- The school are doing a "what Loch Wood Means to Me" exercise with the pupils so they can express their views on their outdoor learning experience there. Mrs Gallacher will co-ordinate this and aims to have this completed in a couple of weeks.

7. Councillor Request for Invitation/Minutes - V Stewart

Mrs Stewart has been approached by our local councillors for invitations to our meetings and/or copies of our minutes. A variety of views were shared with parents overall being happy with sending an invite if it was to discuss something that the councillors could potentially help with.

8. Any parent issues/suggestions for discussions:

- **Christmas cards made by pupils**

Several parents (3) have approached the elected members to raise this issue as they would like to have purchased Christmas cards made by their own child/ren (as in previous years). Funds could be made available from the Partnership Group to support families in financial difficulty, especially at this time of year. Mrs Gallacher reported that the school have to consider the broader context of the Cost of the School Day Calendar as directed by guidance and communication from South Lanarkshire Council. Teaching staff have noted a decrease in the number of parents purchasing Christmas cards. Furthermore, the P6/7 class created handmade, bespoke Christmas cards as part of their enterprise project, which provides valuable educational opportunities in skills such as entrepreneurship, teamwork, and responsibility. While the bespoke cards offer clear educational value, the alternative of drawing a picture and creating a card would not provide the same level of learning benefits.



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- **Other personalised ideas**

Mrs Gallacher is mindful of not adding any additional pressure on families with regard to personalised items that the school may purchase. The Partnership Group agreed that there is the potential to explore fundraising options to alleviate any financial burden. Mrs Gallacher will research personalised gift options, assess their educational value, and consult with parents/carers to understand their preferences, including their budget for such items. This approach will ensure that any decisions made are both considerate of families' needs and aligned with the educational goals of this type of initiative.

- **New netball nets**

Mrs Dempsie inquired about purchasing new netball nets. Mrs Gallacher agreed with this and stated the school would meet the cost with remaining outdoor budget which has to be spent before the end of the financial year

9. AOCB

- P7 hoodies - Mrs Gallacher is going to check pricing/ suppliers for these
- The Men Shed will price up painting lines for MUGA.
- Mrs Stewart handed out letter replies from councillors and MP's and an update on where things are with the solar development. Application is now live on the Energy Consents Unit website (application ref ECU 0000 4823). Community responses, whether for or against the development, must be received by ECU by 12th February. There is a huge amount of information in the application. BKCG will hold a public information event (Sat 1st Feb 12 - 2pm) in Kirkmuirhill Parish church with tea and cakes provided. Further to the letter sent by the partnership group to elected members in Dec, replies were received and passed around for noting. Brian Whittle, South of Scotland MSP has offered to meet with representatives of the Partnership group to discuss concerns. Agreed that the other local PCs would be invited to the meeting. (note, max of 2 per school). It was agreed a letter of objection to the development would be drafted and made available to parents via FB page with a 'vote' button to approve or disapprove it being submitted to the ECU. It was made clear this is a 'yes' or 'no' vote, not a consultation / discussion on the letter itself.

Date of next meeting - 6:30pm, Wednesday 19th March 2025