

# Tipperty Parent Group

## Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 @ 6.30pm

Attendees Via Teams: Miss. Buchan (Head Teacher), Mrs. Comery, Mrs. Dew, Mrs. Elrick-Stewart, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Yeoman, Cllr. Owen (Part only).

Item	Notes	Actions
<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b> Mrs. Comery thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Miss Sherriff's, Mrs. Gillies, Cllr. McAllister, Cllr. Davidson and Miss. Watt.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u></b> The minutes from the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved. Outstanding actions were as follows.</p> <p><b>Tesco Tokens:</b> It was agreed to spend the remaining balance of the Tesco Tokens monies on a new Sumdog subscription. Miss Buchan advised that they could get a package for not only Maths but one that included spelling and grammar too, for not too much more in cost. Miss Buchan to procure.</p> <p>Mrs Elrick-Stewart confirmed that the grant process had now been concluded.</p>	MB
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Chairperson's Report</u></b> Mrs. Comery chairperson read out her report as follows.</p> <p>Firstly, my apologies for the cancellation of the previous meeting. Also, for the confusion of the dates for this meeting. All future meetings this coming year will be on a Wednesday as per the results of the previous pole. I would like to thank everyone who attended the Rock and Roll bingo night and for the generous raffle prize donation. The night was a big success and raised £415 for the kid's panto trip.</p> <p>I would also like to personally thank Mrs. Elrick-Stewart for all her support and help as PTC Secretary. Thank you very much indeed.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></b></p> <p><u>Tipperty Parent Group 21/06/23</u> We have quite a lot of updates to share since our last meeting in April.</p> <p><u>"Royal, Rock &amp; Roll" Bingo Night</u> Congratulations to the Tipperty Parent Group for their recent fundraising Bingo night which was held to raise money for a trip to the Christmas pantomime in December 2023. A fantastic total of £415 was raised!</p> <p>A big thank you to all those who organised this very successful event!</p>	

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4	<p><b><u>Head Teacher's Report Continued....</u></b></p> <p><u>Coronation Celebration</u> In May we were delighted to invite the families of Tipperty School to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The children acted out parts of the Coronation Ceremony and shared songs and facts about King Charles III. We enjoyed some musical performances. The children then invited their parents outside to take part in some playground games. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along!</p> <p><u>Defibrillator training</u> In June Tipperty School hosted a successful defibrillator training event for the local community which was well attended. We also raised £145 on the night in terms of donations towards a new defibrillator. Thank you to all those who attended, advertised and donated towards this cause.</p> <p><u>P7 Activity Days</u> Primary 7 recently visited Transition Extreme in Aberdeen for a skateboarding and BMXing activity. A further P7 activity day was held at Skyline, Inverurie, where the pupils had the chance to take part in trampolining and climbing activities.</p> <p>In May, Tipperty School was fortunate to host a Climbing Wall and Zorbing activity, in conjunction with the P7 Leavers from Arnage, Slains and Foveran. A great time was had by all who participated!</p> <p><u>Opportunities for Learning Across the Curriculum</u></p> <p><u>Royal Horticultural Society Level 2 Award</u> Many congratulations to Mrs. Dew and the P5/7 Gardening Group on achieving their RHS Level 2 Award. The children in P5/7 took responsibility for submitting their evidence to RHS on behalf of Tipperty School. Following a donation of trees to the school, the Gardening group planted these trees in a recent gardening session, with the support of our garden volunteers, Mrs. Mackay and Mrs. Yeoman.</p> <p><u>Visit from UK Parliament Outreach</u> We recently had a visit from the UK Parliament outreach. Philippa held an assembly about the UK Parliament and described how a law is made. This links to work on democracy.</p> <p><u>Rocks Workshop</u> Pupils in both classes recently participated in a Rocks Workshop run by a Geologist, Steven from Ceuld Rocks! The workshop focused on rocks, fossils and volcanoes. The children had the opportunity to handle rock samples and observe working models of volcanic eruptions. This has linked well to work in the area of Earth Science.</p>	

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4	<p><b><u>Head Teacher’s Report continued....</u></b></p> <p><u>Jazzmatazz</u> Pupils in both classes have completed a block of ten Jazzmatazz sessions this term with Mr Brogan, organised by the Youth Music Initiative. The children have had the opportunity to play percussion instruments and have been inspired by Mr Brogan’s musical performances on both saxophone and piano.</p> <p><u>Health Week</u> We have recently held a Health Week which was organised by Mrs Irvine and the Health Group. We were visited by “On the Ball Football Academy” and Roslyn Howard Dance. The children took part in a Boccia Tournament and a Rounders Tournament. Children also enjoyed rugby sessions organised by Active Schools and an African Drumming Session.</p> <p><u>P7 Leavers</u> In the last few weeks of term, we have a number of activities planned for the P7 Leavers. We also would like to invite all interested parents and family members to the P7 Leavers Assembly on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 2.15pm.</p> <p>I wish all families of Tipperty School a lovely holiday when the time comes!</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Treasurer’s Report</u></b> In the absence of Mrs. Gillies, Mrs. Comery advised that there was £3536.88 in the account at present.</p> <p>It was noted that the total did not include the donations received at the community defibrillator event, which are currently in the school safe awaiting collection by Mrs. Gillies.</p>	NG
6	<p><b><u>School Sustainability / Update on Class and Teacher Numbers</u></b></p> <p>Miss. Buchan read out a statement from Aberdeenshire Council Education and Child Services.</p> <p><i>Aberdeenshire Council have reviewed the primary staffing formula which allocates teaching staff to primary schools. This has resulted in changes to the number of classes in some schools with new class sizes in line with the national agreed limits.</i></p> <p><i>This means our school will be running with 1 class next school session. I would like to reassure you that all necessary planning and preparation are being progressed by the school and staffing team and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back for a new term in August.</i></p> <p>Miss Buchan confirmed that currently the school role for the new term in August 2023 is 18, taking account of P7 leavers and P1 enrolment, which will be one class.</p> <p>She stated that the new class size maxima for Aberdeenshire is 25 pupils and this class size maxima is unlikely to change going forward.</p>	

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6	<p><b><u>School Sustainability /Update on Class and Teacher Numbers continued....</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that the change to the class sizes had most likely been delayed by 'Covid' and Tipperty School had perhaps been lucky to maintain the two classes for this long. Based on the 25 maxim, last year's school role would have meant a reduction to one class.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>Miss Buchan informed that the unfortunate reduction in teaching staff was inevitable however the exact reduction was unknown at present.</p> <p>Miss Buchan stated that planning for staffing is being progressed by the staffing team however it has not yet been finalised. There is currently no confirmed information to share, however this will be shared appropriately with all parents as soon as this is possible. Confirmation of teachers is expected sometime during week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>Miss Buchan reassured parents that all teaching staff next session will already be known to their child, which will provide consistency in staffing arrangements.</p> <p>Miss Buchan advised that Pupils will meet a variety of teachers/adults through their week and staff would be mixed between age groups.</p> <p>Miss Buchan noted that all teaching staff are trained to teach across Early, First and Second Levels.</p> <p>She advised that the school would be looking to existing one class schools across the authority for best practice- 11 schools in previous session but could now be up to 16 schools next session.</p> <p>Staff are actively making links with other one class schools and accessing continuing professional development opportunities for staff with other small rural schools.</p> <p><u>Meeting Childrens Needs</u></p> <p>Miss Buchan assured parents that each child's needs would be assessed individually, with personalised targets.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Literacy/Numeracy will be taught separately for each stage in a very similar way to how children in both classes are already taught- in focused teaching groups with teaching input tailored to each group.</p> <p>It was noted by Miss Buchan that PE in her opinion should be taught separately to P1-4 and P5-7.</p> <p>Miss Buchan commented that there would be opportunities for pupils to work as an individual, in a variety of working groups with a wide range of experiences across the week.</p>	MB

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6	<p><b><u>School Sustainability /Update on Class and Teacher Numbers continued....</u></b></p> <p><u>Meeting Childrens Needs</u> Miss Buchan highlighted that in the recent school inspection Education Scotland had noted that Tipperty School has very supportive relationships which are helping staff to know children’s needs well.</p> <p>Miss Buchan reassured parents that their children were at the centre of our work in school and will continue to be our top priority.</p> <p>Miss Buchan advised that the school would continue to access a wide range of experiences such as those accessed in health week, looking beyond the school.</p> <p><u>ASL &amp; Support Staff</u> Staffing numbers for children with Additional Support needs at the school were queried. Miss Buchan advised that ASL and support staff are dealt with separately and allocated at a cluster level. Miss Buchan noted that an annual audit of need is carried out at a school, cluster and authority basis. She added that at present there is no indication that there will be any less support for learners at Tipperty School next year and she has every confidence that the level will remain broadly unchanged next session.</p> <p><u>How the Teaching School will be used</u> Miss Buchan informed that teaching would be separate for different class groups. Both the P1-4 and P5-7 classrooms will continue to be used for the different age groups.</p> <p>It was noted that all areas in the school would be used flexibly.</p> <p>P1-4 and P5-7 groups will continue to use separate entrances.</p> <p>Miss Buchan acknowledged that many details still needed to be agreed and they would develop in ability to work as a one class school, adapting things as they go to. Overall, it was noted that most things would remain the same and the pupils would not see any significant differences.</p> <p><u>Working Groups</u> Miss Buchan advised that there are currently 6 working groups, including Eco, Garden and Health, which will continue into next session. These groups are led by three separate staff members. Going forward the school would have to pull on their remaining strengths to retain the focus on these important areas.</p> <p>The working groups would continue to operate as they do now, where P1-7 are mixed for this exercise.</p>	

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6	<p><b><u>School Sustainability /Update on Class and Teacher Numbers continued....</u></b></p> <p><u>Links With Neighbouring Schools / Other Peer Groups</u>            With the reduction in school numbers the Parent group called for the children to have greater interaction with children from neighbouring schools.</p> <p>Miss Buchan advised that the school already has a successful transition programme across the cluster which affords this opportunity to learners in their P7 year.</p> <p>She noted that Tipperty recently hosted a successful climbing wall event for learners in P7 with participants from 4 schools.            Miss Buchan informed that the school would like to do more of this, although the barrier is usually the cost of transport. Miss Buchan to continue to explore opportunities to do this.</p> <p>Miss Buchan advised that technology offered the opportunity for children to mix with other schools. Most recently P5/7 have been learning Gaelic in online lessons with learners from a school off the west coast of Scotland, an opportunity we would not have had pre-COVID.</p> <p><u>Foveran School / Re-Zoning:</u>            Parents expressed their frustration that the neighbouring Foveran School had reached capacity and was having to use its dinner hall for an additional classroom.</p> <p>Cllr. Owen advised that there was nothing that could be done to the current zoning for Tipperty and Foveran schools. Cllr. Owen noted that a possible new school at Foveran was also several years away. Re-zoning may take place when this school comes to fruition, as well as the planned new homes at Menie, which are zoned for Foveran School.</p> <p>Miss Buchan advised that all children had the right to be taught in their local school and likewise everyone was free to apply for an out of zone place at a school.</p> <p>Cllr. Owen confirmed that she was not permitted to promote or recommend a school to any others.</p> <p>It was confirmed by Cllr. Owen that school capacity was governed by area of usable space as well as toilet numbers, etc.</p> <p>Miss Buchan suggested that if parents had any specific concerns on the change to a one class school that they should email her directly.</p>	

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<b>7</b>	<p><b><u>Appointment of New Secretary</u></b> Mrs Comery informed that Stacey Watt had volunteered to take on the role of Secretary for the Parent Group.</p> <p>Proposed = Mrs Comery Seconded = Andrea Elrick-Stewart</p> <p>Mrs Elrick-Stewart to get in touch with Mrs. Watt and arrange a handover of the role.</p>	AES/SW
<b>8</b>	<p><b><u>Defibrillator</u></b> Mrs. Elrick-Stewart advised that the paediatric pads were still awaited for the Defibrillator machine.</p> <p>The possibility of cancelling the pads was discussed given that a new defib machine would need to be procured in the next two years and that the existing adult pads could be used on a child in the very unlikely event they were required. The majority agreed to cancel the pads. AES to contact the supplier.</p> <p>A new custodian for the Defibrillator has been appointed. Laura Sherriffs has kindly agreed to take over the role. Andrea to liaise with Laura to transfer over the registration on 'The Circuit'.</p>	AES  AES / LS
<b>9</b>	<p><b><u>Fundraising &amp; Planning</u></b> Mrs. Comery suggested that with funding for the panto already secured, future fundraising should be focused on the defibrillator machine.</p> <p>A Pre-Christmas fair with local stall holders was suggested and unanimously agreed to take forward.</p> <p>The date of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November was initially agreed but has been changed to 4<sup>th</sup> November due to several group members having other commitments on the 18th. Claire Comery to approach stall holders to get these booked.</p> <p>AES or SW the new secretary to look into booking the school.</p>	CC  AES/SW

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<b>10</b>	<p><b><u>A.O.C.B.</u></b></p> <p><b>Donald Family Donation</b> Miss Buchan had contacted Aberdeenshire Council to ask for guidance on the sitting of a bench in the school grounds. She had been advised that if the bench was within 10m of the school it would require to be fire retardant or coated in fire retardant paint. The bench would also require to be secured to the ground wherever its location. Further consideration is required on how best to proceed and the cost.</p> <p>Mrs. Mackay has been in contact with The Ellon Men’s Shed with regard to getting an existing bench in the school grounds refurbished. It was confirmed that the bench was donated by the family of a previous staff member at the school who had passed away. It was agreed that the bench should be retained for this reason.</p> <p><b>What’s App</b> Mrs Comery advised that there was a What’s App Group currently in use for the Parent Group committee members, which she felt should be opened up to all parents/carers. It was agreed that this was acceptable to offer all parents the chance to join the group if they wished. Miss Buchan to email parents and provide them with Mrs. Comery’s contact details who they should contact if they wished to join.</p> <p><b>Easy Fundraising</b> Parents are reminded that Tipperty Parent Group is registered on Easyfundraising. Please feel free to register on this website to earn money for the school while you shop. <a href="https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk">https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MB/CC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MB/ CC</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 6.30pm. This meeting will be the AGM.</p> <p>Reminder that all parents/carers are welcome to attend in person or via Teams.</p>	