

Tuesday 21st September
Lamlash Primary PTA AGM 2021

Present:
Susan Foster
Sharlene Little - CHAIR
Rachel Bourne
Katie Hollingsworth
Caroline McArdle - Treasurer & Minutes

Apologies:
Sarah Willis, Jenny Smith, Shiona McGarrigle, Lynsay Scott, Alessia

REPRESENTATION AND ROLES:

Sharlene Little resigned as Chairperson after many years on the PTA as Chair and previously treasurer, her son is now at high school. We thank Sharlene for her incredible efforts over previous years; in particular all of the Halloween parties as well as for everything she did in 2019 when the PTA took on the village Christmas party for the first time. She will be sorely missed. We also lose Jenny Smith and Sarah Willis and again thank them for all of their contributions.

As a group we quickly got into discussion about the lack of representation from the primary school parents at this and previous meetings. It was agreed that we need to re-address how we move forward and how we approach getting other parents involved and included. Perhaps it is a lack of understanding about what we do in the PTA and Mrs Foster volunteered providing us with policy documents which outline the importance of parental involvement and the role of the PTA. We also agreed a tea/coffee and cake get together one afternoon could be a successful approach to engage other parents at pick up time.

In the mean time we assigned roles based on those present!

CHAIR - Rachel Bourne
SECRETARY - Katie Hollingsworth
TREASURER - Caroline McArdle

Early years - there has been some confusion over the years as to whether the PTA is for the primary school only or also the EYC, it has been agreed going forward that these will be separate.

HALLOWE'EN

Historically we have held a Hallowe'en party with competitions for fancy dress and pumpkin carving. It is unlikely that restrictions will be lifted sufficiently to allow us to do that this year and as such any plans for an evening Hallowe'en party have been shelved until next year. However, we will be putting together a Hallowe'en task force to allow us to plan something fun for the children which will likely take place on the Friday afternoon preceding Hallowe'en.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Now that restrictions allow, we are all keen for swimming lessons to resume for all primary children. The cost of transport to the Auchrannie is significant and we will likely need a grant or some fundraising to help make this happen. Both a Calmac grant and and Asda grant were mentioned and will be investigated further. In the meantime Mrs Foster will report back on availability for swimming with Auchrannie.

HEAD TEACHER REPORT

Alison Henderson's 6 month placement in learning through sustainability has begun and her position has been successfully filled by Ms Scott. Ms Jenny Smith has filled the position of Nurture Teacher and a new deputy covering nursery and primary age has been appointed and is due to start soon.

The primary 7's who went into first year have settled in well and the transition has been a success.

Covid recovery plans are progressing well, there will be recap to cover any gaps, reading has been identified as a key area here. We are delighted that the children are allowed to and have been singing again!

P1 - P4 are now receiving free school meals, P5 will receive free meals from January and the remainder of the school will be included in free meals from August 2022.

FUNDRAISING AND CHRISTMAS

Caroline presented the accounts and it was agreed that the fundraising account would benefit from topping up, especially to allow us to do something really great for Christmas this year. It may not be a traditional village party but we all agree we want to do something great. We also agreed that we need to have a more culturally diverse representation on the PTA to make sure that we celebrate all festivals that are important to our school population. We will endeavour to arrange a quick and easy (COVID friendly) fundraiser in the next few weeks, this will likely be some sort of sponsored activity.

NEXT MEETING 2ND NOVEMBER - CHRISTMAS AND OTHER EVENTS ARE ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!