Parent Council Meeting

10th March 2025

Head Teacher’s Report

Welcome along to the March Parent Council meeting. We have been busy as always, and I have a few things to mention by way of update on the life and work of the school.

**World Book Day**

World Book Day was a huge success last week, and we celebrated over 2 days. A highlight for me was when pupils made a ‘book worm’, where they sat down in a long line stretching from one end of the school to the other- over 360 pupils and teachers reading together. They participated in online World Book Day lessons, a fun outdoor scavenger hunt, and a House Quiz.

World Book Day also kicked off our fundraising efforts towards the outdoor classroom, which we discussed with the pupils at assembly. Thanks to all families who have supported the sponsored Read-a-Thon so far.

**Promoting Positive Relationships & Understanding Distressed Behaviour (PPRUDB)**

At last month’s meeting, I shared that the staff team have been working on a refreshed PPRUDB policy, which we now have in draft. Some key changes were:

* The introduction of an ‘over and above award’- designed to celebrate pupils who go ‘over and above’ the expected behaviour in school. This will take the form of a few pupils in each class receiving a certificate and an extra play time as a reward.
* A new ‘communication slip’ designed to let parents know about low-level issues with behaviour. An email or phone call might be used instead, depending on the circumstances, e.g. parents’ jobs or preferences.
* A greater focus on understanding reasons for distressed behaviour, based on our understanding of the nurture principle “all behaviour is communication”. Our new policy is more relational, and focuses more on supporting children and helping to repair relationships following an incident, than a more traditional ‘punitive’ response.
* More consistent ways for staff to respond to low-level unwanted behaviours.
* Clearly explained, natural consequences will help pupils understand that their behaviour has a consequence- rather than just being given a ‘punishment’ which isn’t related to the behaviour.

Next steps are for us to share our draft policy with pupils, parents and families, and ask for feedback. Our pupil council will lead this in school for the pupils, and we will write to families in the next week or two.

**Cross Country**

Our P6 and P7 cross country club members participated in the Cross Country competition last week, and arrived back very muddy and tired! Quite a few of our P7 pupils in particular have qualified for the next stages with their outstanding timings, and we will reveal who they are at assembly next week. A particular mention to Ava in P7 who arrived home with a gold medal for coming 1st!

We were also very impressed by the sportsmanship and encouragement Team Burnside showed each other, by cheering each other over the finish line. The Cross Country event was open to pupils of all fitness levels, and it was a fantastic achievement to all who took part. The teachers were all very emotional watching videos of our young people- they really did the school, themselves and their families proud.

**Loch Long (Arrochar) Marine Litter competition**

Room 12 took part in a marine litter competition run by Keep Scotland Beautiful. The competition was to raise awareness of the issue of litter accumulating in the otherwise beautiful Loch Long in Arrochar. The class made a gorgeous mural for the dining hall by recycled catalogue pages, including animals affected by the litter and facts.

I am delighted to announce that they have made it to the final! Mrs. McMurdo and 8 pupils from room 12 will travel to Arrochar on Tuesday to present their mural in the final. We are very proud of them, and wish them luck.

**RSHP**

Mr Millar and I have just hosted a parental information session about our Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) curriculum. The school’s approach to teaching this area of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum was due a refresh, and we are bringing our approach in line with the recommended guidance from Scottish Government.

Full lesson plans, information and resources can be found at [Home - RSHP](https://rshp.scot/)