

Chirnside Parent Council AGM - 1st October 2015

Chairs Report

Welcome and thank you for attending Chirnside Parent Council AGM.

We have had a steady, yet productive year as a Parent Council and have worked successfully with the school and community to benefit our children's learning and time in Chirnside School. We have consistently been a voice for parents, raising issues and discussing changes.

Meetings have continued to be held approx. every 6 weeks and have again this year, been disappointingly attended, however, we are truly grateful for those who regularly DO make the effort to come and hope you will continue to show your support to Chirnside Parent Council.

At each meeting Mr Trussler the Head Teacher, has been in attendance and he has presented a detailed Head Teachers Report to the Parent Council. This report has included staffing, class structures, improvement plan updates & building works progress.

The main issues the parent council have voiced over the last 2 years have been homework and behavioural problems. The school has been exploring these areas over the years and has now formed an Improvement Plan which addresses Behavioural Management and the Approach to Homework. The Parent Council has been shown the homework expectations for each age and now hope, this new approach will result in consistent homework throughout the school.

School meals has also been a concern for parents over the last year and the committee have discussed portion sizes, salad bar provision and availability of food choices. The kitchen staff have been open to discuss issues and have provided feedback to the concerns raised by Parent Council. The kitchen work hard to ensure the pupils are well fed and will be available on the next Parent Evening so parents can discuss first-hand the food provision their children receive.

The Parent Council's campaign to provide swimming lessons to pupils has been fruitful. Last year's P7's undertook an 8 week block of swimming classes at Eyemouth Leisure Centre. However, there was an issue with the majority of the class not achieving their blue cards at Eyemouth that the Parent Council

had to fund an additional session at Duns Pool where the blue cards were successfully awarded. The Parent Council is now organising for the current P7's to undertake a block of swimming classes after half term, probably at Duns Pool.

Communication between the school, Parent Council & parents has been improved over the last year. The Parent Council attended a course on Social Media and now the school and parent council have been successful in launching ONE Facebook Page for the School. Although, this page still needs to increase its members to be a truly effective method of communication. The Post It Point is now going to be updated regularly as a Parent Council Notice board in the playground.

A welcome letter to new parents at the beginning of the school year introduced parents to the current Parent Council members.

Over the past year, the school has regularly informed the Parent Council on the building works happening in the school. The Parent Council saw plans for the new toilets and have recently visited the works to see the progress and improvement.

In some of the Parent council meetings over the year, we have discussed the need to create some outdoor play facility at Chirnside Primary. The Parent Council watched a very informative video about Natural Play and now have set this as a target to fundraise towards. Work needs to be done with the Pupil Council to achieve this fantastic goal.

In the near future, the school would also like the Parent Council to help fund non-fiction reading material for P1-P7's.

An important role of the Parent Council is fund raising so the school can enhance our children's experience at school. The past year has been a good year raising funds through activities in the school, albeit a little frustrating and exhausting for the same handful of helpers.

The Christmas Fair raised a record amount, the discos each term have been well attended and having an all-day Sports Day where a cake stall, teas and coffees were sold was a big success.

The Coffee Morning with the David Hume Photography Exhibition was a disappointment with attendance numbers being very low.

Spending has been minimal this past year, mainly funding transport for school trips and the Christmas Party therefore, funds can be carried over and build towards the Outdoor Play project.

Our Treasurer Nadine, will present more details shortly of incoming and outgoing expenditure.

So to finish, I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Parent Council over the last year. In particular, Mr Trussler and the support of the school. As well as a general thank you to the committee as a whole, I would specially like to thank our **super fit, super busy** committee members for all their time and hard work in running Chirnside Parent Council, **in addition** to their other commitments! Nadine, as Treasurer you have kept us in peak condition financially (& yourself of course with all that marathon running you do!). Thank you too, Emma for your nibble fingers at the keyboard (and let's mention your nimble feet too, from all that running and cycling!!). And finally, Angie, for being secretary and Wonder woman who juggles puppies, cubs, grooming and anything else furry that comes her way! Well done all of you!

I wish the new committee good luck and best wishes for the year ahead.