

# Friends of Maud School Parent Council

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## Minutes

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Present:** Louise Muir (Co-chair), Christine Wood (co-chair), Lynne Pirie (Treasurer), Katie Fordyce (Secretary), Mrs Steel, Mrs McCue, Miss Buchan, Mrs Sutton, Kath O'Connor, Kate Noble, Donna Sutherland, Cat Anderson, Louise Cran, Georgie Curno, Janet Dick, Jill Gibson.

**Apologies:** Vicki Brown, Vicki Gibson, Shona Esslemont, Caroline Simpson, Annette Clark, Rachael Smith.

### **Minutes from previous meeting:**

These were read out by Katie and approved by Kath O'Connor and seconded by Lynne Pirie. No matters arising.

### **Head Teachers Report:**

Term 4 is upon us and we are hoping for a fun and busy summer term with no interruptions!

Procedures in school remain unchanged as we follow the Aberdeenshire Council Risk Assessments. Children continue handwashing procedures and bubbles remain in place until we are advised these can be lifted. PE continues to be outside but at least (we hope) there will be nicer weather to support this! Staff continue to wear masks and distance from other adults.

We are delighted to have had a flurry of new families within the village and have recently welcomed 5 new pupils to Maud School, this pushes our school role to 94 as of this week.

We are pleased that our P7 pupils will get some 'in person' transition events this term. This includes a session at Maud School with Paula Rawson and Lynne Gordon in April, a Transition '21 Event at Mintlaw Academy in May and their 3 day visit to the Academy in June. We are unable to facilitate a residential trip this year, but Miss Simpson is keen to arrange something special for our P7 cohort to celebrate the end of their primary years. We also plan to have a leaver's assembly during the last week of term but as yet, we are unsure how this will look and if parents will be able to attend by then.

We are currently organising a version of Sports Day that fits with our current Risk Assessment from the Authority. This will take place at the pleasure park within bubbles as we are still restricted in terms of large gatherings with the whole school so unfortunately, parents will not be able to attend this year. We have pencilled in week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May and races will be run over the course of that week to allow for sanitisation of equipment between bubbles. Back-up dates are pencilled in for the week after. We won't have potted sports

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this year as the sanitisation of all the equipment is not possible in a typical potted sports event.

End of term – we are asking all class teachers to arrange a local class trip or fun day for their class, which will take the place of a whole school trip or walk/cycle to Aden. Once again, the risk assessment restrictions in terms of whole school events render these annual events impossible but we are determined to have something fun planned in their absence!

Swimming lessons – we are in the process of trying to find out if swimming lessons will be available for pupils again. Turriff pool is currently closed for refurbishment and we are also checking with Fraserburgh and Peterhead. If lessons are available, we would be looking to book a block of a maximum of 5 weeks. The trickiest part of any trips etc will be our pupil-adult ratios as we are still restricted in terms of parental helpers. School staff are all testing twice a week so we can ensure negative Covid results, but it is ensuring enough staff are available to be out of school/covering the remainder of P5, PSAs covering breaks etc that is more of the issue. If it is not possible to secure swimming lessons this term for P4/5, we are unfortunately unable to carry this into next session.

Bikeability – P7 Bikeability has already been done in term 2 and P6 Bikeability will be done before the end of term. With P7, we managed to do it 'in house' as we now have PSAs and teachers trained now so we will follow the same format for P6, which training will span over a week. More information will come out to P6 parents regarding procedures and preparations, but it is currently slotted in for the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> June to coincide when P7 are out at the Academy for their visits.

## **Primary 1 induction:**

Primary 1 induction will be led by Miss McWilliam and is scheduled for week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May. This will be online, like last year, unless restrictions are lifted. Miss McWilliam will send home different activities by email in place of the activity packs that are normally used. Parents can then complete these at home with their children and return pictures via email. School are already liaising with Nursery to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. It is hoped that parents will be able to visit in bubbles, if possible, but that this will be at the end of term.

## **Term 4:**

Most of the items were already covered in the Head Teachers report. The school are trying to keep things as normal as they possibly can for the children. Obviously, this can be very difficult with regards to staff - children ratio and the school diary is very full with trying to organise as much as possible in bubbles, allowing any time for disinfecting any equipment and not forgetting our unpredictable weather. Unfortunately, parents cannot be involved with these events, but Louise reminded the school to contact the parent council if there was anything we could help with in anyway.

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Louise updated that the P7 leavers hoodies have been ordered and she spoke with the company this week. They are now back operating at full capacity so hopefully we should receive these soon and get them out to the P7's as soon as possible for them to enjoy.

## **Treasurer's report:**

There has been no change in finances since our last meeting, so we currently have £1034.15 in the bank with only the expenses of the hoodies to come out.

## **Fundraising:**

Normally the parent council hand over a big donation to the school at the end of the year, however it is not looking likely that this will be the case this year. Missing our biggest fundraiser of the coffee evening for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year has really affected our ability to do this. Therefore, we really do need to hold another fundraiser before the end of term to boost funds and possibly help the school with any end of term treats for the children.

Take away treat boxes were mentioned again as this was popular and well supported for the Macmillan Coffee morning.

Kath also mention a virtual pet show, where people are asked to submit pictures of their pets via a Facebook page/group into a list of categories for a small donation. It was hoped that this could be supported by the wider community too.

Any other ideas are welcome as always, so please get in touch if there is anything you think of.

## **Maud School Football:**

We are glad to report that training has started back at Maud Pleasure Park on Tuesday nights from 6.30 – 7.30pm. New procedures for training were issued to all the parents and we would like to thank everyone for sticking to them. We are keeping an eye on government and SYFA guidance in the hope we might be able to get a gala this year, but it really is a case of watch this space. Cat also mentioned that the football would be willing to pay for the swimming bus as normal if required.

## **A.O.B:**

Some parents had voiced concerns prior to the meeting regarding the school gates on the Avenue and issues with how busy the road is there and had asked if there was anything that the school could do to help with the issue. It was decided that the school will continue to raise awareness of the issue, encourage parents to stick to the guidelines of 1 adult per family at pick up and drop off and to leave as promptly as possible. It is a 20 zone surrounding the school and the school have always encouraged parents to park further away and walk the rest of the way to school to reduce the traffic on the narrow roads surrounding the school. The school do not have the authority to enforce a one way system for all those that live next to the school, but will continue to encourage people to walk to and from school instead, as far as is possible and encourage parents to use their common sense and not walk in the middle of the road to ensure everyone's safety.

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The pedometer challenge that the school has taken part in the past in conjunction with Mental Health week and with the Community trust was suggested to see if this could be used to encourage more parents to walk/park further away, given how popular it is with the children. This is currently being discussed and hope to be able to do this in some way this term. It was also suggested that it might be good to get the children involved with making posters to promote road safety and keeping them safe.

Unfortunately, there have been reports of a huge mess at the pleasure park with litter being left everywhere. The Pleasure Park committee are planning on discussing the best way they can deal with this but asked if the school could support them in sending out any correspondence via email if required. The school are more than willing to support this and promote how important it is to keep the village tidy.

It was asked if Miss McWilliam would be the P1 teacher next year. Staffing is yet to be decided but as Miss McWilliam is leading the inductions, it would make sense for her to continue. Information regarding staffing and classes will be shared and sent out when possible to do so. This year, the current P6 class have been asked if they would like to be a buddy next year. This is due to some children in the past not wishing to be a buddy and down to the size of P6 and not as many new P1's starting.

Louise thanked everyone for attending.

**Date of next meeting – AGM:**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 6.30pm**

Please consider if you would be willing to become involved and take on a role as we will be looking for a new committee with all members of the current committee standing down after 2/3 years. Thank you.