

# Friends of Maud School Parent Council

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## AGM Minutes

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

**Present:** Louise Muir (co-chair), Christine Wood (co-chair), Lynne Pirie (treasurer), Katie Fordyce (Secretary), Mrs Steel, Miss Buchan, Mrs Sutton, Cat Anderson, Donna Sutherland, Louise Cran, Janet Dick

**Apologies:** John and Georgie Curno, Helen Feeney, Rebecca Cassie, Caroline Simpson, Shona Esslemont, Kath O'Connor, Rachael Mitchell, Vicki Gibson.

### Minutes from previous AGM:

These were read out by Katie Fordyce and approved by Louise Cran.

### Head Teachers Report:

We hope that everyone enjoyed the 7 week Summer break this year – it was very much needed in terms of rest and recuperation for the staff and children who have had to adapt to different scenarios throughout the session, but I'm pleased to report that we're all back, happy, healthy and refreshed!

Although we had planned for two separate scenarios in preparation for the new term, we are delighted to be all be back for the new session and even more delighted that some of the restrictions have changed prior to our return meaning that there is no longer a requirement to have bubbles in place. It's lovely to see the children playing happily with friends from other classes in the playground and this change has gone very smoothly for all.

In other areas though, the restrictions that were in place before the summer break are to remain in place for the first six weeks of term. This means that masks are still to be worn by staff and those pupils who wish to do so, our one-way system is still in place for everyone and assemblies, and sharing the learning events and meetings are still of a virtual nature. These restrictions will be reviewed again by the Scottish Government towards the end of this period, but as Covid numbers continue to rise at the present time, we would be surprised if these restrictions are lifted. We can but wait and see!

However, none of us can afford to be complacent. At the current time, Covid figures are continuing to rise throughout the country. It's already having an impact on some areas of Aberdeenshire. So, it's absolutely vital that everyone continues to follow the guidelines. Parents must keep children at home if they or any members of their household develop any of the Covid symptoms, booking a PCR test as soon as possible. We can't stress how important it is that the school is informed of the results of any Covid testing.

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We are very grateful to our parents for sticking to the restrictions and not entering the school grounds. We know that it's not easy and that adaptations have had to be made. This has made the process of keeping everyone safe as smooth as possible and allows us to concentrate on our main priority of learning and teaching.

We've learned a lot during the pandemic and its associated restrictions and as a school have continued to look for the positives. As a result, we no longer have cloakroom areas in place and children now take their belongings through to their classrooms. The cloakroom areas have been converted into working areas, allowing us to create a nurture area (in progress) and to allow a breakout area for staff to work with groups of children. We are excited to see how this progresses during the course of the session.

## **Staffing**

Our session has started with a roll of 100 pupils, our highest number for some time which we are delighted about. We have 5 classes which are as follows:

Miss McWilliam – P1/2

Miss Buchan – P2/3

Miss Walker – P4/5

Mrs Sutton – P5/6

Miss Simpson – P7

We are delighted at having retained Miss Lawson for four days a week this session and she covers non class contact time for the classes, teaching PE and Art this term as well as elements of team teaching and she also has a nurture remit this session, working with children who may require emotional or mental support as part of their Health and Wellbeing. We also have 6 great part time Pupil Support Assistants as part of our team who work both across the classes and in the playground/dining hall.

Mrs McCue had a beautiful baby boy, Seth, at the beginning of the holidays and will be on maternity leave all session. Mrs Steel will be working full time in her absence.

## **Teams**

Microsoft Teams is now used by all classes as their means of communication with you and class teachers have been working hard to set up their class Teams space. We are using Teams as this is the main platform used at the Academy and one authorised by the Council since Seesaw was withdrawn. All homework is now posted on Teams and the expectation is that all children will access it in this way.

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## Data – end of session 2020/21 (June)

Data is captured at four key points during the school session:

| <u>Reading - Percentage of whole school</u> | <u>Level</u>                      |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2%  | Working above expected level      |
| 82%   | Working at expected level         |
| 13%   | Working just below expected level |
| 3%  | Working significantly below       |

| <u>Writing - Percentage of whole school</u> | <u>Level</u>                      |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 4%  | Working above expected level      |
| 68%   | Working at expected level         |
| 22%   | Working just below expected level |
| 6%  | Working significantly below       |

| <u>Listening and Talking - Percentage of whole school</u> | <u>Level</u>                      |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 0%  | Working above expected level      |
| 84%   | Working at expected level         |
| 16%   | Working just below expected level |
| 0%  | Working significantly below       |

| <u>Numeracy/Maths - Percentage of whole school</u> | <u>Level</u>                      |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 6%   | Working above expected level      |
| 71%  | Working at expected level         |
| 17%  | Working just below expected level |
| 6%   | Working significantly below       |

| <u>Health and Wellbeing - Percentage of whole school</u> | <u>Level</u>                      |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 0%   | Working above expected level      |
| 80%  | Working at expected level         |
| 20%  | Working just below expected level |
| 0%   | Working significantly below       |

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## **School Priorities**

Our priorities for this year include the following: Health and Wellbeing – with a focus on Mental Health, Nurture and Emotions which continue to be very important during the times of Covid recovery, continued recovery of Numeracy and Literacy and Pupil Participation, aimed at giving children increased leadership opportunities within the school.

We are keen to promote the sharing of good news and outside achievements in our school again so keep sending them in! We would also love to hear if you have any good ideas as we continue to move forward in our whole school journey.

We look forward to working with you all again this session as we continue to strive for excellence in being the best that we can be!

## **Treasurers Report:**

The accounts show that as per the bank statement on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021, we finished the financial year with a balance of £1222.47. All the bank statements, deposits and receipts are available so if anyone has any questions please just ask.

This is the second AGM report where I am saying that things have been very different and this year, we have not been able to hold our bigger fundraising events such as the Extravaganza in place of the Coffee Evening and the Burns Ceilidh.

The fundraising events that we have managed to hold this year include:

- The Halloween lucky squares that our disco mums organised and raised a fab £204 – thank you ladies
- The I'm A Celebrity sweep stake that raised £200. This money was split evenly between our 5 class teachers to spend on items for their classrooms
- The Christmas Window displays created a bit of fun for the village and raised £240
- The Virtual Pet Show that was held towards the end of term 4 made a profit of £410

We also had a very generous donation of £100 from Mrs Harrower in place of her support and toffee that she would usually donate for many of the school's events.

So, what has the money been spent on this year:

- As I said, the profit from the I'm a Celebrity fundraiser was donated directly back to each class
- We welcomed the staff back after summer with a lockdown treat from the Old Mart Cafe

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- We provided the Christmas presents and food bags for the kids Christmas parties
- Kitted the P7s out with their leaver's hoodies
- Purchased a maternity gift for Mrs McCue

Fundraising may or may not get back to normal over the next school year, but the new ideas have given us some alternative ways to raise some money for the school this past year. The support of the parents and the community is always appreciated with this.

So, we finish the 2020/21 financial year in a position to be able to hand over a cheque for £600 to the school.

## **Maud School Football:**

Training has returned to full swing, and we have had a fantastic new intake of primary ones which is great to see. Football training is open to all Maud Primary School pupils from P1-P7, just come along to Maud Pleasure Park on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 – 7.30pm and remember to bring a soft drink and wear shin pads.

The Strathythan League also started back on Saturday for the P4-7's which everyone is delighted about. Its great to see a bit of normality creeping back in after having nothing at all last year.

Our AGM is set for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Maud Social Club, everyone welcome. Any enquiries then please email Cat Anderson at [maudschoolfootball@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maudschoolfootball@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Election of new committee:**

Louise Muir started by thanking the school and other committee members for their help and support during her time on the committee but stated that she would not be continuing for another year. All current committee members also wish to step down. Mrs Steel followed by thanking the committee for all their hard work throughout the years they have been involved.

Nominations or volunteers were asked for, but nobody had indicated an interest in any of the roles. Therefore, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) is required and will be held on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm through Teams.**

It was suggested that some more information is made available about the roles, so that people can make an informed decision about them. The current parent council agreed to organise this and make this information available to parents who may not fully understand the positions and what they might be expected to do on the committee.

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## **School Website:**

Currently the School website is updated by Kath O'Connor. Her time as a parent at Maud School is coming to an end and she has asked if this role could be taken on by someone else. Ideally it would make sense for this to happen asap so that she can be available for support if need be. A discussion took place as to whether this should be taken over by the school or a parent. Mrs Steel stated that the school would find it helpful if a parent took on this role, which consists of having admin rights to the website and putting on the recent newsletters, staffing, minutes etc. It is not a huge role, but the school would find it most helpful if a parent would be able to do this.

Mrs Sutton asked if it was possible for families to please donate a box of tissues into school. It is coming to that time of year again and the school are down to their last few boxes. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

## **Date of next meeting:**

**EGM – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm via Teams**