Minutes for Inchture Parent Council Meeting, held on 24/1/24.

Present:

Jo Bell (Headteacher)

Fiona Bienkowski

Claire Brough

Fiona Callaghan

Louise Chalmers (Deputy Headteacher)

Laura Malloch

Emma Mathieson (Secretary – minutes)

Dawn North (Chairperson)

Tasha O'Hare

Jordan Russell

Apologies:

Sara Cassidy

Jenna Gallazi

Scott Headley (Treasurer)

Edgar Huitema

Marie Murray

Treasurer's Report

A written update was provided in Scott's absence. This detailed events and miscellaneous income and expenditure since the last update. Current funds available on 23/1/24 were £3,099.28, Halloween party, Christmas Movie Night and Bonus ball lottery contributed to this. We also received a grant of £500 which will go towards a tribute in the school grounds to Ruby Stewart. Money was spent on purchasing Ipads for the school, paint and materials for the outdoor classroom, Christmas books for Nursery, P1 and P2 children, Lottery licence, expenses for the Halloween parties, baskets for the refurbished library, supplies for school Christmas parties and a first aid kit. We are also expecting £140.72 to be transferred to Parent Council from Easy Fundraising in February.

Headteacher's Report.

There had been some confusion over the dates/times of the Church services in December. This had arisen from a change to initial timetabling having to be changed due to availability of the church. It was felt that both Church services in the morning had been well received by parents and worked well for school. It was agreed they had gone well.

Mrs Bell explained that there had been a noticeable number of parents who had left the Christmas concerts before the end, after their own child had performed. While it is appreciated that parents do have work commitments the last few classes had to perform with a significantly smaller audience and this had upset them. Going forward the expectation will be that people who attend will stay until the end.

The Christmas trip to Dundee Rep to see A Christmas Carol was a success. There had been concern among some parents that it wasn't a pantomime and was maybe too scary for some of the children. However, the children had really enjoyed it and the age rating was 5 plus so was appropriate. Mrs Bell and Mrs Chalmers explained that available dates, cost of tickets and buses and content of the shows all had to be taken into account when making a decision on where to go. They felt that the Rep show had given children a good exposure to special effects, musical instruments and parents on Parent Council who had seen A Christmas Carol were in agreement with this. Buses to Dundee were also cheaper than to Perth which helped keep costs as low as possible for parents.

Parents had been asking if children in composite classes could do more with their stage group throughout the year. Mrs Bell indicated that some trips would be with more than one class, eg P5 and P5/6 trip to Bannockburn visitors Centre and that some classes of same stages do topic work together already.

There has been an 85 inch Promethean panel installed in the refurbished library. This has helped transform the library into a popular learning space and all classes, including Nursery, have allocated time in there throughout the week. On 28th March there is a Digifest planned between 11-12 and the Digital Leaders will share their learning with parents. It is planned to launch Promethean on that day and have an event where the ribbon is cut. Members of the local Council and Parent Council members will be involved in this. Inchture Primary has reached the submission stage for the Digital Schools Award which is great.

The Scholastic book fayre held at Parent Contact raised £900. Reading material has been purchased in response to the survey carried out by the children on their preferences for reading materials. A wide range has been chosen, including things that boys had indicated they would like eg football, Alex Ryder. Listening stations have been delivered to allow children a variety of ways of accessing books. Annuals have arrived from DC Thomson and some parents have handed in books. The BEAR pack have done a fantastic job organising the library.

On 27th March it will be a joint House Event/Be More Ruby day. Lots of activities are being planned. Money raised will go towards the Ruby bench in tribute to Ruby Stewart who would have been in her P7 year at Inchture. Unfortunately the agreed supplier has pulled

out at short notice and a replacement contractor has been found. The costings from the new supplier are awaited but previous costings were around £1700 so is expected to be around this figure. Dawn will check if the grant application needs to be amended if supplier is changed.

Fundraising

Movie night raised £274. For next movie event it was agreed with Mrs Bell that Parent Council members could collect the children from their classes at 3pm as doing so at 3.15pm did not work well when teachers were trying to get the other children ready to leave. Some parents asked if it was possible to pay for events via Parentpay but Scott has confirmed this is not possible. BACS payment or a SUMUP QR code may be an option but it was generally agreed that cash was acceptable to most.

The next fundraiser is on 15th March and is a Bunny Drive. This is like a beetle drive with an Easter theme. Laura, Tasha and Claire have preparations in hand. This will be a family event with snacks and drinks. Claire's mum Mrs Laing will provide shortbread and Elsa Callaghan will make tablet. Raffle tickets may be sold. There has been kind donations made following our Facebook appeal for unwanted Christmas gifts which will be split between the Sports Day Raffle and Bunny Drive if a raffle is planned. A local cake maker may be approached to sell cakes on the night. To be confirmed.

Sports Day is 31st May. The raffle held last Sports Day was very successful and another is planned this year.

Christmas Jumper sale planned for November. Fiona B has received a large number of donations following an appeal for outgrown Christmas jumpers. Will plan to advertise this again later in the year.

Policy updates – no progress has been made on this since the last meeting.

Requests from school for 4 further wicker baskets for the library. These are currently out of stock in B and M. We will continue to look for these. Ice lollies for Primary Sports day on 31st May and Nursery sports day in June will be arranged. Dawn will approach the SPAR to see if they would be willing to donate these as they have done in the past. If not, these will be provided out of Parent Council funds.

Fiona B asked about the possibility of a Pre-loved uniform sale. The main worry would be where the clothes would be stored. Fiona is going to investigate how other schools run this. It was raised by some that would people buy this and if they didn't what would we do with it all. The ECO Committee in school may be able to look at this from an ECO perspective which might be more popular.