



PARENT COUNCIL

5 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

PARENT COUNCIL FOR SESSION 2019/20

Following on from the recent rescheduled Parent Council AGM I am delighted to confirm we have now appointed 3 new office bearers. A number of new parents attended our meeting who would like to be part of Parent Council for this current school year and parents are welcome to attend any future meetings. All minutes of our meetings can be found on the school website if you are unable to attend but would like to keep up with what we discuss.

Office Bearers for this year are: Lynn Milton – Chairperson, Jenny Neill – Vice Chairperson, Kath Jones – Treasurer and Suzanne Haviland - Secretary.

The date of our next meeting is Thursday 16th January 2020 at 6.30pm. Our meetings last for approximately 1.5 hours and should be finished by 8pm. Mrs Laird also holds her Head Teacher Forum each school term for parents and carers who wish to find out more about what is happening at the school.

Most parents will be aware that Highland Council and other Local Authority budgets are under a lot of pressure so it goes without saying that the same can be said for our school budget. At the recent meeting we held straight after our AGM one subject has been raised as an urgent matter for us to engage with parents on. This is relating to the cost and time allocated to swimming. At the moment children in Primary 5 or Primary 6 (this can depend on the make-up of the composite class) are taken to Inverness for swimming lessons. This is a 10 week block and a small contribution is made by parents towards the cost of the bus. Unfortunately due to the limited options for the size of bus we can hire this is becoming extremely expensive and can cost around £2,000 pounds or more. It depends on numbers in the class, but on top of this the class teacher, a pupil support assistant and possibly a parent helper are needed to take the children and supervise which is normally around half of the school day. We need to ask parents for their opinions regarding this and if it is something they are 100% committed to helping to fundraise for and if they feel this is still an essential skill that should be taught during school time. The children do have the opportunity to go on a residential trip at the beginning of Primary 7 which does involve watersports.

We will be sending you a short survey to complete online to ensure that we have as many opinions as possible but please feel free to speak to or email Mrs Laird at the school or myself on the parent council email glenurquhartprimarypc@gmail.com.

Yours faithfully

Lynn Milton
GUPS Parent Council Chairperson