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| Moorfoot PTG Meeting 6th September 2017Apologies: Mischa Hautvast, Emma Tobin, Emma Softley, Kirsty Matthews, Toni Page, Lynne Still, Beth Kirkpatrick, Jacqui McKenzie.Attendees: Lisa Hobson (Chairperson), Emma Sawyer (Secretary), Helen Tait (Secretary), Laura Wilson, Sim Wilson, Adeline Tan, Steve Wood (Head Teacher), Clare Howard, Louise Finney, Lynne Grant, Rhona Holland, Jonathon Weedon (Teacher rep). (Minutes taken by Emma Sawyer).Extra Item - Messy Church David Richardson from the local Messy Church team extended an invitation to all the families at Moorfoot Primary School and gave a brief overview of the Messy Church format. • Messy Church is for everyone of any age. • It’s held on the last Sunday of every month either at Pathhead or North Middleton village hall. • It’s always very laid-back and fun with plenty of mess. • There's not just messy crafts. For older kids (of any age) there will also be messy challenge; e.g. Build a racetrack. • As part of the fun, the Messy church team provide a meal for everyone to share. • Messy Church is on from 4pm until 6pm. • If you're ever interested please email to let the team know so they can make enough food. Welcome and Introductions The chairperson welcomed everyone and all in attendance introduced themselves brieﬂy.Parent Council Opt In. All in attendance opted in to serve as parent council.Head Teacher's Report • Mr Wood introduced Jonathon Weedon as the new teacher rep. • A positive start has been made with the pupils settling in to school quickly. • It's great to have some returning staff. • It is hoped that stafﬁng this year will be more stable than last.Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan. • This document has been prepared following the new format guidelines. • Once feedback from the council has been received, the report and plan will be published for all to access. • The great input and work done by parents, pupils and staff last year to set up the school vision and values has been an important part of the improvement plan. (L.I.F.E. - Learning, Inspiration, Friendship, Encouragement) • The goal this year is to embed these values into school life. • The main areas of work are vision and values and aims, a curriculum map and plan (aiming for a well designed curriculum within Moorfoot), Parent and Community Partnership (some exciting opportunities in this area at this time), and closing the attainment gap. • Increased funding was made available to the school for closing the attainment gap this year. Some of this money has been used to employ the support for learning teacher for more time. She is an experienced outdoor education leader so will be using her skills to help pupils engage with the environment and the wider Moorfoot community. • This funding is also available for supportive services such as; child counselling; play therapy; and accessing a home link worker where needed. • Mr Wood has earmarked some of this extra money to provide more out of school experiences for pupils, including involvement in producing a Moorfoot Community based DVD in partnership with Midlothian Council.Treasurer Position • Polly Tolley is unable to fulﬁl the treasurer role this year. • Lynsay Halliday has agreed to take on the role of treasurer. • She was nominated by Adeline Tan, and seconded by Lisa Hobson. • The change over of PTG bank account operators is in process following this change.Clerk Position • Emma Sawyer is standing down as clerk after 2 years. • Louise Finney has agreed to take on this role.Class List (Raised by Adeline Tan) • Adeline Tan introduced the “Class List” App as a possible route to improve and streamline communications between the school, PTG and between parents. • There are currently 4 routes of PTG communication: “madmimi” email distribution list and moorfootptg@gmail.com email account, twitter, Facebook and paper copies. • A concern was raised that parents may be missing communications. • Also it may be unclear how to contact the PTG ofﬁce bearers. • “Class List” is a 1 step process to allow two way communications between and within the school and PTG. • It may be able to consolidate/replace all other electronic communications. • It is a secure app. • It requires sign up from parents and school. • It has a nominated moderator. • It is a little like a within school “Facebook”. • Meets all UK data protection guidelines. • It is accessible from the internet and can be an “app” on a smart device. • Current email system is still a secure way of sending information out to parents. • Not all parents have access to a smart device. • Not everyone uses the Facebook app or the Twitter app. • Communications via these apps are fully accessible to the general public. • Not everyone has sufﬁcient data storage capacity to manage another app. • Emma Sawyer and Simona Wilson agreed to look at the app and feedback at a later meeting.Class Dojo (Raised by Mischa Hautvast) • Can Class Dojo access for parents be reinstated? • It was clariﬁed that “Class Dojo” is an app being trialled by class 1 and the nursery to promote positive behaviour and achievement in class. • No other classes in the school are using it. • It has a mechanism which allows the parents to see their child’s proﬁle and “dojo points”. It also has a messenger system which allowed direct communication with the class teacher. These facilities were trialled last year. • Comments (positive): • Pupils like being awarded dojo points. • Parents liked that they could view photos of work shared by the teacher, and see what their children were being awarded points for. • Parents liked being able to send quick queries and messages to the class teacher. • Class teacher found it useful to be able to send quick reminder messages to all parents about school trips/ sports day etc. • Comments (negative): • It can be very time consuming and does detract from teaching time. • There is an issue with teachers continuing to access this system out of work hours with notiﬁcations on their personal smart devices and so causing unrealistic expectations of communication with parents. • There is risk of overwhelming teachers with non-teaching related tasks. • There is an issue with managing negative feedback to teachers from parents. This is turn causes unnecessary challenges to staff conﬁdence. • Reward systems need to be refreshed fairly regularly to keep children engaged. • This system is probably not suitable for all age groups. • Comments (other): • If parents need to communicate with anybody in the school this should always be done through the school ofﬁce in the ﬁrst instance. • Mr Wood re-iterated that phone-calls via the ofﬁce are always the best way to notify the school of changes to pick-ups etc. • Mr Wood re-iterated that face to face conversations, a phone call, or email directly to the school are always the best ways to communicate both negative and positive feedback to the school staff. • Class Dojo will continue to be reviewed by the teaching staff as it seems to be more useful as a class “story” and reward system than a communication tool. • Mr Wood is happy for any other class to take on using “Class Dojo” as a reward tool. • Twitter and the school website will continue to be used to communicate learning experiences across the school. • Parents are encouraged to please continue to make all contact via the school ofﬁce.School Ceilidh • Does the PTG want to continue hosting this social occasion and community event? • Shall we book Middleton Village Hall and Gary Copeland as the venue and ceilidh entertainment respectively? • All in attendance agreed that the PTG would like to host this again as it is such a great social and community event, even though it doesn't raise much money. • The provisional date is Thursday 1st February 2018. • Rhona Holland agreed to be team lead for this event. All offers of help gratefully received.Electronic permissions/signatures. It was unclear what the exact query regarding this is. It was agreed to clarify the query and discuss at the next meeting.Fundraising Calendar • Due to time constraints this will be discussed in full at the next meeting. • It was agreed that the PTG would like to host a school Halloween Party again in October. • Lisa Hobson and Claire Howard agreed to lead this event and will contact Allison Scott and Hilary Gordon for their input after the success of last year. Duck Race • The duck race will be held on the 30th September, at Fushiebridge. • Ashe Tait has kindly run this excellent event for the last few years but is moving house very soon so is unable this year. • Emma Sawyer, Sim Wilson and Laura Wilson agreed to manage this event, with any other help gratefully received.PTG Funds Use • A brief discussion was held regarding what the PTG funds will be used for this year. • Historically the PTG funds have supported the following subsidies: • £2.50 per child for a topic related trip. • £5.00 per child for the summer school trip. • £150 for the in-school Christmas Party and presents for the younger school (Nursery and classes 1 and 2). • It was unanimously agreed to continue with this support. • It was proposed that we increase the amount from £100 to £15 to include a small Christmas present for the older (Class 3 and 4) pupils too. • This was unanimously agreed. • £30 goes to providing the homework book bags to all new P1 pupils. • It was unanimously agreed that this should continue. • A vote was taken on whether to support the theatre trip at Christmas. • 8 voted yes,1 voted no. • Motion carried. Due to time constraints, the ongoing funding-raising target and subsequently the amount of the PTG contribution to the summer activities (e.g.residential camps and water sports camp) will be discussed at the next meeting. Also Mr Wood has a “wish list” of items that the PTG funds might be used for. This will also be discussed at the next meeting.NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 1130 AT SCHOOL. TO DISCUSS PTG FUNDRAISING TARGETS AND EVENT SCHEDULE. |

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