

Crawforddyke Parent Council Newsletter – April 2018 (Edition 5)

Welcome Back after Easter!

I hope all parents, carers, pupils and staff have had a relaxing Easter Holiday!

As this is my first newsletter since taking up the role of Parent Council Chairperson in February, I'd like to take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about me....

As a parent of one, who is currently in P2 at Crawforddyke, I've always had an interest in how the school performs, how it operates and engages with its parents and carers. To be able to directly help and influence what happens in our school, to support the Head and all the Teachers, to get involved with events, and to understand the behind the scenes stuff that helps the school run day to day; has thus far been undeniably rewarding; and so my journey as Chair Person has begun...

I hope that along the journey, we as a parent forum, continue to reach new highs and continue to help the rising stars of Crawforddyke, reach even higher! Thanks for all your support. *Lesley Mooney*



Fundraising Update

In February we held our annual Valentines Disco, again this was a great success and we raised **£422.41**, which goes directly towards our fundraising total for the school year.

Sponsored Bounce

This year a staggering **£4,560.70** was raised!!!

Thanks to everyone who supports and lends a helping hand with all our events, without you we wouldn't be able to do what we do, so a BIG thanks to you all.

2017/2018 Donations

As we embark on our final term of 2018, our fundraising has again reached new highs. We have already been able to donate a whopping £3,000 to the school and it's looking likely that another big cheque is on the cards, so keep an eye on our end of term News...

These funds directly benefit everyone at the school through events, parties, trips, equipment and books.

Your continued support is invaluable to Crawforddyke.



Upcoming Parent Council Meetings:

Our next meeting will be held **on Tuesday 1st May at 7:15pm.**

Our meetings are held in the school staff room; we encourage everyone to get involved, and we would love to see you there. Everyone is welcome.

The Head Teacher always gives an update to the Parent Council on what is happening in the school and it's a great opportunity to find out a bit more about what is going on in general.

Our programme of meetings for the next school year are still to be agreed. To kick start the new school year our AGM will be held during the first week of September. Date to be confirmed.

We are also looking to make the dates more flexible and hold meetings either on a Mon, Tues or Wed, hopefully widening the opportunities for people to be able to attend.

Upcoming Events

It hardly seems possible but Carlisle Gala day is fast approaching and the Parent Council have already been working behind the scenes to get the ball rolling for our entries this year. Our Primary entry will be **'The Crawforddyke Tall stars'**, and the Nursery **'The Crawforddyke Small Stars'**.

Let's hope our 2018 entries can bring us further success. If you'd like to get involved please do get in touch; a helping hand to build the floats or helping on the day; whatever you can do, we need you!

Parent Council Survey

We had a great response to our recent survey with over a hundred completing this online; A big **thanks** to everyone who took some time to respond as this really will help support the Parent Council members to shape what we do in the future and improve how we do things.

Some key themes coming out from the results are:

Broadening how we communicate with the wider parent and carer forum; exploring other fundraising ideas; meeting times' vs people's availability; availability of information – newsletter / minutes etc.

I'm happy to say we are already looking into how we can make meetings more flexible by holding them on different days and we are also looking at holding a drop in / parent forum at other times during the school calendar; these were raised at our latest meeting and will be confirmed shortly.

All our meeting minutes are available on the Parent Council Website – but again we are looking at ways we can make things easier to get information out and receive feedback back by using social media. So watch this space.

And finally...

We all have our reasons for getting involved - or not getting involved - in school life. But really it is very simple – and any professional in education will tell you that:

When parents and schools work together children do better!

Whatever way you look at it, the more involved you are in your child's education, the more likely they are to succeed. The school works in partnership with all parents, the Parent Council is a structure that makes this partnership easier to achieve. Quite simply we are a group of parents that want to do that little bit extra to make the partnership work as well as possible and to get the best possible outcomes for all the children attending Crawforddyke Primary & its Nursery.

This newsletter highlights some of the things that we are doing to strengthen and enhance that partnership, but we can do even more if more parents get involved. Getting involved can mean a variety of things; coming to the meetings we run, sharing your views and telling us what you want to see in the school, or sharing your skills/knowledge, it might mean volunteering in the school or at an event - in the end it means whatever you want it to mean.

Working together we can make things happen that benefit all of our children so **Please Get Involved.**

For more information and contact details please visit our website:

<http://crawforddykepc.weebly.com>

