**WOODBURN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL - PARENT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017**

**CHAIRPERSON’s REPORT**

1. **Introduction**

As Chair person for 2016/17, I would like to thank everyone for coming along tonight to our AGM.

The Parent Council is essentially a forum for all parents who would like to volunteer to get involved in helping the school to provide the best possible learning environment and learning experience for all of our children, in order to give them the best possible foundation to their education. I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of the main objectives of WPS Primary/Nursery School Parent Council as stated in the constitution.

1. **The objectives of the Parent Council are**:

•To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents/carers

•To promote partnership between the school, its pupils and all its parents

•To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils

•To identify and represent the views of parents/carers on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.

During the 2016/17 session, the Parent Council did well to deliver and uphold these Values and

Objectives. The following are examples of some of the tasks and activities that we have been involved with:

* Fundraising
* Head Teacher Interviews including Interview training
* Raising concerns from parents with the school
* Working with the school to improve the facilities available
* Giving input where required to assist the school in making decisions
* Supporting the school in our Global Citizenship Goal
* Having fully inclusive PC meeting where members of our community are also welcomed.
1. **Our Parent Council/Forum**

Our last AGM took place on 06th September 2016. At present, the Parent Council is supported by around 15 active Forum members (plus 4 staff members), who generally meet once every 6 weeks throughout the school year. We have however, lost a number of members through children progressing to High School etc, so there is plenty of room for new members with new ideas. You can either attend as Parent Council Forum members who are prepared to offer comments and suggestions; or as members prepared to get involved at events in active support for the school and its pupils; or better still - both.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, which begin at 6.45 pm. The meeting are run through an agenda, which has a set format. Parents are welcome and encouraged to add agenda items under AOB. These items are usually set before the meeting to allow time for preparation.

Dates and times of all planned meetings are listed on the school website and they are also listed on the handouts. Even if you decide not to attend meetings, new ideas are always welcome and will always be discussed.

1. **Fundraising Events and Activities**

Looking back over 2016/17 the Parent Council successfully organised and ran a number of events which provided both social and fund-raising opportunities within the school. The following is a summary of the events and activities supported by the Parent Council:

* The first event of the year was our P1/2 Fun Night, which provided an opportunity for the pupils to meet their classmates and other children in a fun environment and also gave parents and carers the opportunity to meet each other.
* Our first whole school event last year was our ever popular Monster Mash Halloween Disco. We made some changed to the previous years, and took into account feedback from parents. The event was held at the High School Campus, this allowed the opportunity for all of our pupils and their families to attend. As well as the usual disco and games we introduced a number of new games, as well as a quite area for children and families to take some time out. This event proved popular and feedback was good from all.
* Our Christmas Fair and Summer Fun Day both proved popular and were supported by a large cohort of parents, pupils and our local community. These events were our main fundraisers of the year along with the Monster Mash. During both events a raffle was held, and these contributed to the funds raised. Without donations of prizes from local businesses and people, the raffles could not go ahead. So I pass on my extended thanks to all who donated.
* The PC supported the P7 Christmas Party, where we supplied a disco and pizzas and supported the event on the night.
* The PC supported the Round Trip Rwanda event which proved very popular amongst our families and pupils, this event was used to strengthen and provided a focus on the schools Global Citizenship Goals.

As you will imagine, these things all take a huge amount of planning and organisation, on top of all of the other school events. They only succeed with the hard work and support of the many parents and teachers within our school; I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your hard work and dedication to these events.

1. **Contributions**

As you will see from the Treasurers Report, we have been able to use the monies raised to contribute to the new sound equipment, widely used by all pupils and staff, making things a lot more practical within the school and adding great value to the learning experience. We also assisted in with costs of the panto buses and the P7 Christmas Party, making these fantastic fun events more affordable to all pupils. At the start of the school year we gave each class teacher a £50 contribution towards items such as stickers, pencils and other resources they normally provide out of their own pockets.

1. **School Business**

This year we have had a number of significant changes to our senior management team, Elspeth Reid on Maternity leave, Laurinda Ramage resigning from post, Claire McCallum joining us and leaving due to a new job opportunity, Debbie Beveridge on secondment to WPS from Burnbrae Primary school. While each of these members of staff have proved valuable assets to WPS, the constant change has been difficult, at times, to manage. There was also a shortage in teaching staff at the end of the last academic year which meant SMT were often teaching classes.

Myself, and 2 members of the parent forum were involved in the interviews for our new Head Teacher, we were delighted to welcome Joanna Taylor at the start of this academic year. There has been a number of issues raised at the PC meeting which have been taken forward by school staff our meeting have proved to clear up a number of concerns raised directly by the parents.

1. **Thank you**

To the SMT and all of the school staff for their continued hard work, professionalism and commitment to both the parent council and the school during the past year.

To the janitorial staff who often go above and beyond to help us prepare for and tidy up after our events.

To all the Parent Council and the Parent Forum members (and to those who have assisted at events) for their hard work in organising the events and making things happen, particularly those who are leaving us this year and who have served the school so well for so many years. And to you all for coming along and supporting our school.

1. **Summary**

2016/17 was a busy and productive year for our whole school community. Those who support the Parent Council are all volunteers who want the best for the children and our school as a whole, our time is committed to providing the school with the support to become the best it can be. I would encourage as many parents to show an interest in supporting the School through the varied Parent Council meetings and events and I look forward to seeing what this new school year brings to Woodburn PS.

Debbie Lawson

WPS Chair 2016/17.

21/09/2017.