

Fox Covert Parent Council AGM - Wednesday 3 Sep 2025

Attendees:

Douglas Bruce	Head Teacher
Lesley-Ann Wright	Principal Teacher
Kirsty Cassidy	PC Chair
Brooke Haldene	PC Vice Chair
Sarah Sherif	PC Treasurer
Liz Aitken	PC Secretary
Gillian Nicholson	
David Nicholson	
Chris Jack	
Sandrine Flower	
Caitlin Borys	
Anthony Lennon	
Lana Lennon	
June Morrison	
Grant Stalker	
Louise Duncan	
Ali Connelly	
Fiona Whyte	
Michelle Hofmeyer	
Lynne Semple	
Roger Campbell-Crawford	
Lynsey Moor	
Alison Greenshields	
Daisy Johnstone	
Susan Hamilton	
Amanda Robitaille	
Catriona McShane	

Head Teacher's report and look ahead – Douglas Bruce

- This academic year we have 10 classes, with 269 children on role.
- Following a curriculum review, there's more focus on exploring children's interests and following their lead.
- Outdoor learning remains a key part of children's learning – the school makes use of the large playground and Corstorphine Hill.
- Currently working towards the Digital Skills Award.
- Staff are part of a Learning Community with other local primary schools to share knowledge.
- Teaching is based on the Foxy 4 principles – evaluating, achieving, support and challenge, engage.
- Achieved Rights Respecting Award (Gold) and will continue to work at the gold level.
- Staff lead 4 development groups: Curriculum design; Learning, teaching and assessment; Digital technologies; and Outdoor learning.
- Pupils lead and make changes through groups including House captains, Fox-C Rights Rangers, Pupil parliament, and Eco group/Junior Road Safety Officers.
- Numeracy will be the main focus for this year, as well as writing, outdoor learning, play pedagogy, empowered learning (digital), guided reading, music/drama and PE.
- Wellbeing/inclusion is embedded in our values (kindness, inclusion, achievement), children have designed a fox-themed Leuven scale to visualise wellbeing, Dyslexia Foundation

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toolboxes and visual support timetables are in every class, and the school works with various professionals.

- Assessments are used regularly to gain a clear and accurate picture of where children are at all levels (monitoring and tracking 4 times a year). Achievement gaps are identified and support is provided through Pupil Equity Funding, and Transition Teacher support. Assessments are moderated through our Learning Community.
- Pupil Equity Funding (£42,120 last year) employs an additional staff member, wider achievement gaps funding, and funding for uniforms/residential trips etc.

PC Chair review – Kirsty Cassidy

- The PC is run by parents/carers but works in partnership with the school.
- The aim of the PC is to raise the standard and quality of education and improve communication and engagement between the school and parents/carers.
- The PC donates 15% of our fundraised funds to the school's Pupil Equity Fund every year
- Class List is used to communicate PC info to the whole school. Most classes also have a WhatsApp group or Facebook group.
- Class reps provide a great link between parents, PC and school.

PC Finances 2024/25

Raised £6,867.78, spent £5625.85 (some costs taken off after financial year end, so roughly spent what was raised).

Current balance – restricted funds £1995.94, unrestricted £7,263.68.

PC money goes to:

- Lagganlia bus (P7 trip)
- School panto
- Supporting school teams
- Spending amount for each class
- Facilities and equipment for school
- Pupil Equity Fund

PC Fundraising plans

- Halloween disco – 23 Oct
- Xmas cards/mugs
- Present room – receive donations of new or pre-loved gifts and children come and choose a gift to give to a parent/carer (children spend about £1)
- Xmas parent social – date TBC
- Bake sales
- Summer fair – 13 June 2026
- Tea towels
- Easyfundraising – website/app used to access online shopping, but they will donate when you shop. Everyone to sign up!
- Open to other suggestions – speak to PC or class reps
- Volunteers needed – message PC on class list or let your class rep know

Future PC meetings

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- 8 Oct
- 3 Dec
- 4 Feb
- 6 May
- 10 June

Q&A

Q – Can PE days can be communicated sooner at the start of term?

A – Usually the first week of term has no PE days (or if teachers wish to teach PE, there's no expectation for children to come in wearing their PE kit). As we have a shared campus, it takes time to get the PE schedule. PE days are communicated as soon as possible.

Q – What are the rules on smart phone use on campus? Some P2 parents noticed children with phones out.

A – Please let staff know if you see this during the school day. Phones should be off as soon as children come through the school gates. Teachers collect phones and keep them secure all day and return them at the end of the day. This has been publicised in school newsletters.

Q – What is happening with the new school build and are there any updates?

A – Mr Bruce is working closely with the Edinburgh City Council Estates Team and will communicate any information as soon as he has it. Currently, the only confirmed information is that we will be on the current campus for this academic year and that the move is planned for the 2026/2027 academic year. It's not known how much involvement parents will have on things like the design and location of temporary campus. Consultations with parents/carers will be held whenever possible.

Q – How was the class mixing managed, and can the possibility of mixing classes be communicated to children in advance so that they are prepared for the change?

A – Class mixing is usually decided at the end of term. The school will give children notice next year to give them a chance to prepare.

Q – Parents are coming into the school car park and parking on double yellows in surrounding streets, making it very busy and dangerous for children to cross.

A – Last year JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) worked closely with local police and put out cones. The school will continue to work closely with police and parking wardens. Class reps to feedback to their classes about the importance of not coming into the car park and not parking unsafely.

Q – iPads for P6/7 – can parents have a choice about whether children are given a 1-2-1 device? Can parents have more detail on how iPads are used in lessons.

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A – This is a funded Edinburgh-wide initiative and iPads are provided to all P6/7 children. Staff have upskilled on using digital devices as learning tools. The iPads are always used as a planned part of lessons to enhance learning. School will send out more info on how iPads are used in lessons.

Q – Homework

A – homework has been changed slightly based on parent/carers feedback to provide paper-based activities as well iPad activities. Homework policies are reviewed every year.

ACTIONS

- **All class reps** to remind parents/carers in their classes about safe parking around the school.
- **Mr Bruce** to add a link in the school newsletter to Edinburgh Council's reporting unsafe parking form ([Report incorrectly parked vehicles – The City of Edinburgh Council](#))
- **Mr Bruce** to arrange info for P6/7 parents on how iPads are used in lessons.