

Saint Ninian's Primary School and Nursery Class



Head Teacher: Mrs Lisamaria Purdie

Acting Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Claire Roy
Acting Principal Teacher: Miss Hannah Leggat



Douglas Rise, Dedridge
LIVINGSTON, EH54 6JH
Tel: 01506 414612



E-mail: wlstnians-ps@westlothian.org.uk
Website: <http://stniansprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>
School Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/stniansps/>

"Together we learn and grow in the image and likeness of Christ."

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Date	Thursday 30 th January 2025 at 6pm
Attendees	Mrs. LM. Purdie, Mrs C. Beattie, Christine Dickson, Mandy Taylor, Louise Callaghan, Annlouise Murray, Lesley-Anne Riad, Shazia Imran, Danielle Woods, Laurie McIlwhaine, Muhammad Qasim, Aiman Imtiaz, Oluwafemi Adu.
Apologies	Miss K. Fraser, Tina Melville, Ciera Venables, Veronica Nichol, Pauline Ogunro, Rachel Crilly, Marie Shanks, Mathew, Varghese, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1 WELCOME CD welcomed everyone to the meeting, offering particular welcome to new attendees. LMP led the group in an opening prayer, the Jubilee Prayer, in cognisance of the Popes announcement that 2025 is to be a Jubilee year.	-
2 COUNCILLOR UPDATE LF was unable to attend the meeting. A copy of their Report is appended to the Minutes for reference	-
3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING	
3.1 <i>Update on previous item 5.1 - Defibrillators - CV had raised the subject of having a unit in the school. The group agreed to revisit the possibility of purchasing a Defibrillator for the school at a future date.</i>	ALL
3.2 <i>Update on previous item 5.2 - Treasurer's Report</i> The report was issued to PC members in advance of the meeting and is appended to the Minutes for reference. The current balance is £1,114.77. LC advised that approximately £400+ is expected to be issued from the ASDA Rewards Scheme.	-
3.3 <i>Update on previous item 4.2 - Health & Wellbeing Ambassadors</i> LMcI shared an update on a recent meeting held for local school H&W Ambassadors to discuss strategies and share health & wellbeing ideas. WLCs Digital Learning Ambassador also gave information regarding school internet filters (which blocks content rather than specific sites). LMP to share links on behalf of H&W Ambassadors and Mr. Bucknell.	LMP
4 HEAD TEACHERS REPORT The report was issued to PC members in advance of the meeting and is appended to the Minutes for reference. LMP discussed the following points in greater detail:	
4.1 School Role and Staffing LMP gave an overview of the changing needs of the Nursery, including the additional support required for the wider age range of children now attending, from "Eligible 2 year olds", the traditional 3- and 4-year olds and more recently a higher number of 5 year olds. LMP also noted the varied shift patterns and annual leave requirements which the Nursery manages to fulfil the 50-week per annum structure, which differs from the traditional School Nursery setting/timetable. LMP to provide a School Staff flyer similar to the Nursery Staff flyer issued with their report, to give families a 'Meet the Team' introduction to newer staff members/staff they haven't encountered in the children's journey so far.	LMP

4.2 School Improvement Plan 2024-25

In addition to the wide list of opportunities highlighted in the report, **LMP** also noted that the Risk Factory experience has been booked for P7 children. This years P7 Camp has also been booked and this will take place in March. **LMP** also advised that P4-7 children will be involved in Pupil Committees whilst P1-3 children will attend more age and stage appropriate Skills Groups this year.

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5 STEM Enterprise Initiative

MT provided a short update on behalf of MT/HL, advising the group that this years business challenge has been officially launched and P7 children have now been allocated their business mentors. The finals are due to be held in March.

MV/HL

6 FUNDRAISING

6.1 **DW** suggested that a flyer is produced to show families what money has been raised with fundraising so far this year and how this has been/will be spent.

DW

6.2 The group will look into purchasing a recycled plastic pergola for the garden area. **CB** to share website link.

CB

6.3 **ALM** suggested the group could contact Dobies regarding funding for outdoor learning equipment.

ALM

7 SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

7.1 **DW** asked if the school are likely to continue using Social Media platform X. **LMP** advised that she had recently spoken to WLCs Digital Learning Manager and that WLC are currently reviewing their use of Social Media. It is thought that schools will likely move away from X. **LMP** noted the school tends to use SeeSaw/Groupcall to share information with families anyway so any change will have minimal impact.

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7.2 **LMP** also noted that Groupcall has a potentially useful tool called "Expressions" but this is still being developed at this stage.

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8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 **ALM** referenced the Outdoor Learning sessions and suggested that Learning Through Landscapes may be able to provide some waterproof jackets/trousers for the children. **LMP** noted that the school had previously benefitted from free training sessions from LTL and agreed to reach out regarding funding.

LMP

8.2 **SI** asked if the group would consider making a donation to the family or school of West Calder schoolgirl Hope Gordon. The group agreed to a £50 donation. **LC** to check with Coop Funeralcare.

LC

8.3 **CD** advised that the St. Philip's parish Sunday Mass may be able to recommence in March, following the recent re-opening of the Lanthorn Community Centre. Church property requires some remedial works/replacement beforehand. Proposed trial Mass times are as follows:

St. Teresa's parish Mass at St. Teresa's Church, East Calder - 9am

St. Philip's parish Mass at the Lanthorn, Dedridge - 10:15am

St. Andrew's parish Mass at St. Andrew's Church, Craigshill - 11:30am

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9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 10^h March at 6pm**. Details will be issued in advance.

ALL

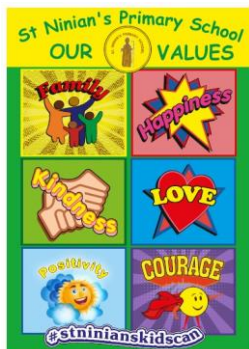
Report to
St Ninians Parent Council
Thursday 30th January 2025

My apologies for non-attendance and trust all enjoyed the Christmas break

Key Issues

- Council Budget – as with other councils spiralling overspend particularly on social care and homelessness leave Councils in desperate need. In West Lothian we have suffered 10 imposed Council Tax freezes since 2008 directed by Scottish Government.
- Winter preparation – well prepared with adequate salt supplies, grit bins filled and public pick up points available at Livingston South Rail Car Park
- Education – have for some time worked with secondary senior pupils in critical area of violence prevention
- Operational Services – attending to 2 metre walking strips on Alderstone Road and Crofthead Interchange with bush growth protruding to pavement and roadway
- National Care Service – Unions representing social care workers and Cosla vehemently opposed. Scottish Government have spent £30m on proposals, thankfully the proposals have been chopped.
- Litter pickers – continuing to work miracles
- Scottish Water – included intelligent network sessions at East Calder (River Almond sewage) being one of 4 high priority areas in Scotland – Aim to allow prompt and pre-emptive action to prevent pollution
- Council funding for festive buses x27 and x28 which services Bankton Lane and Dedridge East were welcomed and successful.
- Trees – much value for biodiversity – between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2025. Council will remove 11311 trees and plant 31153 in West Lothian
- Bubbles Pool – remarketed and Council Executive have agreed to sell the site to Crudens for £3.1million. They intend to build 122 flats; town centre living appeals to many.
- Council in view of red alert storm closed all schools and public buildings on 24th February in view of public safety. Nevertheless, Operational staff worked to clear over 600 trees county wide throughout Friday and Saturday. For those who enjoy walking on the Murieston Trail it was heart breaking to witness so many amounts of trees fallen. Heavy rain over 2024 severely weakened their root base.
- Education Executive were thrilled to note the publication of achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels in Scotland for 2023/24 which evidenced West Lothian performance very highly for combined literacy and numeracy attainment, a tribute to all our teaching and support staff, parents and carers.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick



St. Ninian's Primary School Parent Council

Headteacher's Report January 2025



Article 29 – goals of education

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Item	Subject	Points for Discussion
1	School Roll and Staffing	<p>Our school roll is now 251 and our nursery roll is 61.</p> <p><u>Staffing changes (CONFIDENTIAL)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Miss Leitch (P3L) has been covering Mrs Davenport's maternity leave this session. She has now secured a permanent post in South Lanarkshire and will start at some point after the February holiday. Mrs Davenport will take over in P3L (Tues – Thurs) and we have secured a part-time teacher (Mrs Ogunro) to cover on Mondays and Fridays. Children and families will be informed this week. - We plan to advertise a full time permanent class teacher post very soon as a number of our teachers have reduced their hours following their return from maternity leave. - We have welcome a few new members of staff to our Nursery Team. Please see attached our 'Meet the Team' photos. We are all working very hard to support and build our new team to meet the changing needs of our nursery.
2	Finance	<p><u>School Fund Update - January 2025 balance: £5236.00</u></p> <p>Thank you to all those who supported our Christmas Fair and choir fundraising events. All monies raised have been added to our healthy school fund balance above. It is our intention to have a whole school vote about the best use of this money after Easter. In the meantime, we continue to use school fund for weekly Food Technology supplies and we will be purchasing our P7 Leavers' Hoodies shortly. (£800).</p> <p><u>School Budget – End of the Financial Year planning</u></p> <p>As we approach the end of the financial year in March, we are prioritising remaining budget on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New carpets in the 4 upper area classrooms and new flooring for the school reception area and office space. - Ensuring core resources in every classroom and new chairs for some classes - Additional netbooks to support targeted literacy/numeracy interventions - Playground resources such as loose part materials and PE equipment - A part-time supply teacher to team teach and support small groups - Equipment/resources required for P5-7 concert (Joseph) <p>All of the above decisions are based on the views of parents and staff in last year's whole school survey about how to improve our school. (See last page of report)</p>
3	Property	No updates at this time
4	School Improvement Plan 24-25	<p>A reminder that our improvement priority for this session is: <i>To ensure all children further develop their skills and resilience through challenging, exciting and varied experiences across the four contexts of learning.</i></p>



St. Ninian's Primary School Parent Council

What progress are we making with this?

- Our school environment is important to us. P1 and P2 classrooms have new flooring which really brightens up the space. The infants also have access to a wonderful new sensory room to provide a calm, relaxing space when required. I'd like to take you to visit the space at our meeting.
- All classes continue to take part in weekly outdoor learning sessions with Mrs Prendergast. Again, thank you to our parent helper volunteers. This would not be possible without you. ☺
- Our school held some very special events in Term 2 to showcase the talent and caring attitudes of our children. We held a Prayer Breakfast for families during Catholic Education Week to celebrate the unique ethos of our Catholic school and we hosted the very special Christmas lunch alongside St Philip's St Vincent de Paul group for elderly members of the local community.
- We continue our Food Technology programme with every class due to take part in a 6-week block. P6 and P4 are currently enjoying their block – fajitas are on the menu this week! We were fortunate to receive £200 of Lidl vouchers to support our work on encouraging children to enjoy fruit and veg.
- It's all about playground improvements this term and three of our pupil committees are leading these developments. The PB committee have purchased lots of new sport equipment for the playground, the Play Champs have ordered lots of loose part play items and creativity resources, and the Nature Ninjas are ready to build their poly tunnel to start growing items. Look out for before and after photos!
- It's Children's Mental Health Week next week and we continue to think about different ways to promote positive mental health for our children. P4-7 pupils had a brilliant input from Gavin Oattes, comedian and motivational speaker, to talk about positive mind-sets and we are so excited to welcome Fischy music for a full day next week. We sing their songs every week at Chatter Times – ask your child about songs such as 'I'm the Only I', 'Build Up' or Wake it Up'!
- We asked P4-7 pupils to share their views about their learning with us. The results were very positive and confirm that we are getting a lot right!
 - 100% of them told us that they enjoy their learning. (65% said all of the time and 35% said some of the time).
 - 98% told us that their work was hard enough. (41% said all of the time, 57% said some of the time and 2% said not very often). We plan to look at this question per class to explore what we can do to further support and challenge.

Our 5 main actions for this term are:

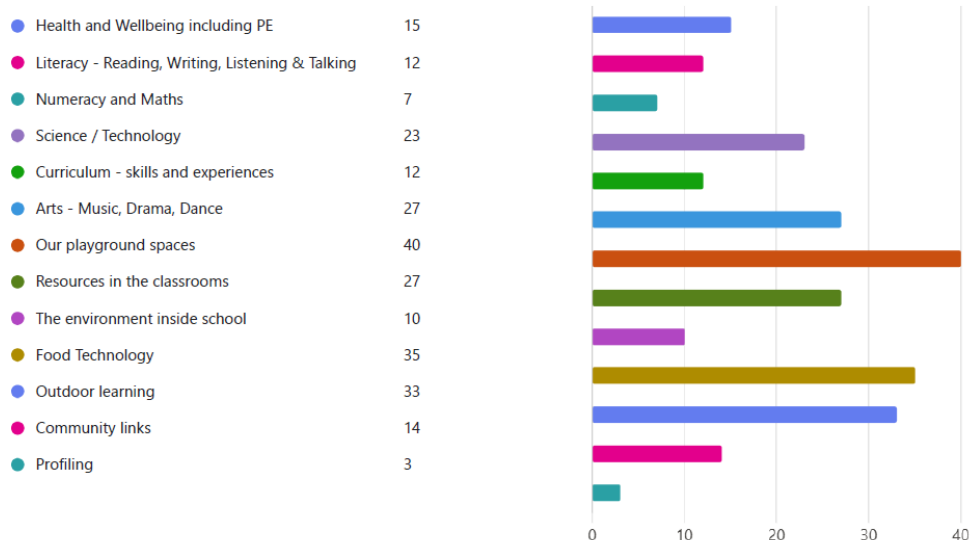
- **Building Thinking Classrooms will be introduced from P1-P7 to promote a love of Maths.**
- **We will continue to look at improving the literacy skills and progress of all learners.**
- **SeeSaw will be reviewed to look at how we share individual achievements and progress.**
- **Pupil leadership groups will take charge of improving our playground spaces, as described above.**
- **Our staff team are working on their digital technology skills so that we can support learners with theirs too.**



St. Ninian's Primary School Parent Council

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This term will also be a busy one for P5-7 pupils as they work hard to prepare for their performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat in April/May. Dates are being finalised and will be shared with parents next week. Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a Jubilee Year and the theme is <i>Pilgrims of Hope</i>. We will be participating in events and activities to help our children and school family be part of this special Jubilee year. We are also delighted that Mr Bucknell, P7 teacher, has been invited to take part in a Pilgrimage to Rome in July with other Catholic teachers from across Scotland. Lent 2025 begins on 5th March. Our Mini Vinnies group will lead our annual Lenten charity fundraising events for the school family too. <p>Yet again, another fantastic term ahead for the St Ninian's family! We will also begin to populate our Term 4 Calendar (April – June) and will share more details of key dates and events in due course.</p>
5	Matters arising from previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westspace and Wellbeing supports will be shared with all families during Children's Mental Health Week next week. Credit Union returns to school on 7th February. I am grateful for the support of our parent volunteers who will keep this going. This will be advertised to families in the weekly update.

3. If you were to improve THREE things about our school, what would they be? (Choose 3 answers)



May 2024

Whole school consultation about school improvement



St. Ninian's Nursery Class
January 2025

Meet Our Nursery Team

Get to know the staff team here to support your child and family

I like
GOING TO
THE GYM



Miss Fraser
Early Years Officer

I LIKE
*walking in the
forest*



Mrs Martinek
Early Years Practitioner

*I like learning
about*

HISTORY



Mr Farmer
Early Years Practitioner

I LIKE
*going to the
football*



Miss Jarvis
Early Years Practitioner

I love
WALKING ALONG THE BEACH



Mrs Thomson
Early Years Practitioner

I
LIKE

*going out
for meals*



Mrs Murray
Pupil Support Worker

I like

**SINGING
IN
THE
SHOWER**



Mrs Findlay
Early Years Area Support Manager

I like
*to ride my
mountain
bike*



Mr Meekings
Pupil Support Worker

I like

TO MAKE
BRACELETS
AND LISTEN TO
MUSIC



Miss Wilson
Early Years Practitioner



I like

**TO WATCH
TV SHOWS
AND SOAPS**



Mrs Sanderson
Early Years Practitioner

I LIKE
*to sing
and
dance*

I LIKE
**to curl up with
a good book**

**I LIKE
to walk
my dogs**



Miss Leggat
Acting Principal Teacher



Mrs Purdie
Head Teacher



Mrs Roy
Acting Depute Head