

# Avoch Parent Council Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2018

Avoch Parent Council (APC) supports the work of the school by promoting contact between parents/carers and the rest of the school community, discussing issues of interest to parents/carers, providing advice and feedback to the school on its policies and organising social and fundraising events.

You do not need to be a member of the Parent Council to attend one of our meetings, to ask for specific items to be discussed or to volunteer to assist with any APC activities. You will always be welcome to participate in whatever way you can. Our aim is to ensure all parents/carers from different backgrounds feel welcomed, supported and listened to and that they understand what the Parent Council does.

**Breakfast Club and After school Club** The out of school clubs are fully up and running and have spaces available. Breakfast club is 8.10am with a drop off at the external entrance to the school hall. Breakfast provided is cereal/toast/bagels etc. After school club - booked in children are collected straight from class or after school activities and it is generally held in the GP room. Collection is via the side door (close to the portacabins) and children need to be collected by 17.55 hours. The parent council believe the after school and breakfast clubs are invaluable to working parents and are very appreciative of the effort the school staff have taken to get tis established. However, it needs more people to use it if it is to remain viable. All of the children that that go have reported back that they really enjoy it and would hate to see it close down so please consider using it for your child care needs.

**Christmas Fayre** Thank you to everyone who contributed to last year's Christmas Fayre. The home baking, raffle and jar stall raised £1307 for the APC funds with the jar stall being the biggest earner. If you are available to help at this year's Fayre please tell the school or the Parent Council – all offers are very gratefully received!

*What's the jar stall I hear you ask?* A table is covered with all of the picture cards from a pack of playing cards. On top of each card is a filled jar. Children have three shots at cutting the pack and if they turn up a picture card, they win the jar that's on top. Last year your generosity meant that,



despite the huge demand, every child had the opportunity to have a shot. It would be great if we were able to do the same again this year and so we would be grateful if you would consider collecting and filling a few jars for the Christmas Fayre on 7<sup>th</sup> December. You can fill the jars with sweets, small toys, crayons, pencils, paper clips, - anything you can think of. We would also be very grateful for donations for the raffle, including items that could be used to fill hampers.

Raffle tickets are now being sent out – we would be very grateful if you could return your completed slips, cash and any unused tickets as soon as possible please.

**Fundraising – achievements** Last year, we raised over £4,000, from the Christmas Fayre, Summer Fete and Discos combined. This was a fantastic achievement and we could not have done it without the help of parents, carers and wider family members throughout the year who have baked, donated and volunteered so generously – thank you. This has made it possible for us to replace the school goal posts, as well as contributing to the Lendrick Muir trip; Year 7 autograph books and the Leaver's Dance. We even provide the oranges for the sports day!

## Fundraising - what's next?

Our main fundraising efforts last year and going forward are focused on getting new outdoor play equipment and we have been working with the Pupil Council to find out what the children would like and looking into external funding opportunities to help supplement our own fundraising. We have drawn up a number of options that the children have voted on and parents have also had their say at the recent pupil progress evenings.

**We need your help!** We would be very keen to



hear from anyone who would like to help us with the play equipment project. If you've got new ideas about what we could do to raise funds, would like to help plan for the new play equipment or have any particular experience in making funding applications please let us know.

You do not need to join the Parent Council to get involved and you can offer as much or little time as you can comfortably manage. All help will be very gratefully received.

## School disco

The disco is a great fundraiser for us and the children love them, but we cannot run them without you. We need 8 volunteers for each session to ensure the correct child/adult ratio. Most will not need to do anything except be present, so if you know you'll be staying anyway, please consider putting yourself down as a volunteer so the disco can go ahead. Discos are usually held on a Thursday evening and we try to organise them towards the end of term, when a late night will not have such a great impact on school performance. The next one is on 14 February 2019.

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Every time you shop online go to TheGivingMachine first, then browse and shop at over 2,000 retailers
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When you make a purchase retailers pay a commission which is turned into a donation for us

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### \*\*\* Ways to get in touch \*\*\*

Email us at [avochprimarypc@gmail.com](mailto:avochprimarypc@gmail.com)

Facebook: Avoch Primary School

Leave a note at the school office

Contact one of the Committee:

- Kate Lackie (Chair)
- Julie Davidson (Secretary)
- Asia Kucharczyk (Treasurer)
- Inga Ballantyne (Play project lead)
- Iona McMillan
- Stefanie Rankine
- Carlyne Wilson
- Phoebe Dickinson
- Carrie Mudge

## Next APC Date

6.30pm, Thurs 17 Jan 2019

**All welcome!**

If you would like the APC to include any items on future meeting agendas or if you would like to volunteer to participate in any APC activities, please do get in touch.