



Parent Council Corner. Your Parent Council has continued to work hard "behind the scenes" during what has been a different kind of school term. Our committee meetings have shifted online and we have been progressing a number of projects as best we can during these strange times. We hope this short note brings you up to date on what we have been up to.

We are continuing to get involved in **meetings organised by the Highland Parent Council Partnership (HPCP) to share parents' views and concerns about home learning and plans for returning to school.** The HPCP is a registered charity which represents the voice of Parent Councils and the wider Parent Forum across Highland and you can learn more about them by going to their website or their facebook page.

We helped to organise and fund a set of **School Supplies 'Goody Bags'** which were kindly delivered by teachers. These bags included useful items for home learning such as paper, jotters, rulers, whiteboards, pens and pencils all contained within a re-useable tote bag. Thanks to MFR Cash for Kids for their kind donation to this initiative.

We say a fond farewell and big thank you to our long-standing organiser of the **Parent Council 'Unicycle' Scheme**, Catherine Silversides and a warm welcome to parent Carrie Mudge, who has kindly agreed to take it on. Our Unicycle scheme is a fantastic FREE eco-conscious uniform recycling service ensuring that preloved uniform is reused. Donations are always welcomed but you don't have to donate in order to receive items. We currently have a good amount of stock so get ready for the new year by placing your orders for uniform by emailing avochprimarypc@gmail.com or by visiting the Unicycle facebook page 'Avoch Primary uniform Recycling' where you will also find more information about how we are operating safely during coronavirus. Please note that this is a Parent Council run service and, due to current Highland Council guidelines, will not involve the school as a drop off or pick up location.

We have agreed the final design for the new **playground equipment** and are planning to commence installation as soon as possible in the next school year, once Highland Council permissions are in place. Due to various funding ups and downs we now have £13,000 in the bank to buy the all the previously agreed Wicksteed playground equipment, minus the "leadfrogs". You can view the design and plans by going to the Parent Council page on the school website for the Playground Update. The £20,000 target previously mentioned was set when we had other funding in place and other fundraising opportunities planned. With this in mind we had hoped to add more equipment to the original designs. However, due to a donation falling through, and in this current climate, we have decided to purchase what we can with our current total so we can move forward. We are also seeking funding for a **polycrub and outdoor growing space** for the school. The aim is to provide an alternative learning space with an emphasis on growing, health and well-being. Please get in touch if you have any ideas or can assist with this initiative.

We are currently seeking your input for our new short and informal **Frequently Asked Questions for Starting at Avoch Primary School**, to supplement the school Handbook with a parent/carer-parent/carer feel to it. Please get in touch with any ideas you have for questions we can ask and answer or any hints and tips for starting Avoch Primary that you found helpful.

Office Bearers: Ruth Edmonds (Chair); Kirsty Cameron, Ingrid Robertson, Julie MacKay (Secretaries); Clare Weaver (Treasurer)

As you can imagine, fundraising is challenging at the moment as our usual events have been cancelled. If you're shopping online **please consider using The Giving Machine FOR FREE to generate funds for the Avoch Primary Parent Council**. Just sign up as a giver to our cause, then every time you shop online just go to The Giving Machine website first, then click from their site through to your desired retailer - there are over 2000 to choose from. A small percentage of your spend will then go to the Parent Council (at no extra cost to you). Click on the link to sign up <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/avoch-primary-parent-council/>

We say a fond farewell to all our committee members who will be moving on with their children to High School next year, and indeed to the P7s, and we also look forward to welcoming new children and parents/carers. **Our next meeting will be our AGM which will be held at the beginning of the new school year and is open to all**. Remember, you can join the Parent Council anytime or just get in touch with suggestions, queries or problems at avochprimarypc@gmail.com.

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