# Houston Primary School Parent Council Meeting -Monday 17th May 2021

Members Present (apologies for any names missed as I didn’t catch everyone who was attending)

Nicki Barrett, Cheryl Logan, Mrs Murray. J McPherson, L Wilson, L Masterton, C Farquhar,
Mrs Johnstone, Elizabeth Lindsay, Morven Miller, James McBeath, L Macleod, Kirsty Fowler, Lesley Bain, S Ballantyne.

Chair opened the meeting with apologies received from those not able to attend the meeting:

Alexis, Alexander and Matthew

Chair confirmed that this was to be the last meeting for this school year and that she crossed fingers for a better year ahead for 2021/2022.

Nicki confirmed she did not have anything really to report, and had not had any updates from any of the Renfrewshire groups.

She then continued to highlight that Cheryl Logan would be standing down from the role of Treasurer, as Ben her son was moving to Gryffe High School next year, and that she wanted to say a huge thank you to Cheryl for everything she has done over the years in supporting the school and all the various committees.

Kirsty Fowler will be taking on the role of Treasurer moving forward. Cheryl will help to transition everything over to Kirsty and will be on hand if help is required.

## TREASURERS REPORT

Cheryl thanked everyone for her flowers and card received, they were lovely. I will miss you all, It has been 17 years that I have been part of the committee for Houston Primary School, from Nursery and up.

I will look forward to assisting Kirsty with the transition, and handover all online banking, etc and help Kirsty get started with everything.

Slight change to the balance from last meeting the balance now stands at £5,298.12 today, this included a spend of £189.98 for the leavers gifts ( which historically were dictionaries, the Primary 7 Gift this year is a personalised MUG.

We also received some income in March 2021 for £78.18 from [EasyFundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>) which is an exceptionally easy free way to make money for the school with everyday purchases from Over 5,000+ retailers. (eg. Amazon, ebay, Supermarkets, and more).

There was no other income or spending.

## EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Laura MacLeod confirmed that they had received all the required artwork for the Tea Towels. These are to be done for all age groups including the Houston Primary Early learning and childcare (ELCC), and would be ordering these now, from the same company that we use for Christmas cards.

## UNIFORM REPORT

Morven Miller confirmed everything was good, and that the recent Tracksuit order was received. Tracksuits are very popular with the Children and most now have them across all ages.

Total for recent order £10,000, with 17% of Profits coming back to Houston Primary School Funds. This is still very good comparing it to previous orders. their

It was highlighted that [Schoolwear Made Easy](https://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com/) had thought it dubious as to whether we would actually receive many orders, now that parents were used to ordering online via them due to COVID, however we were able to receive a good number of orders, therefore thanks go out to everyone who ordered via the School Uniform Committee.

Laura Masterton confirmed there was not much to update on the Tracksuit style Shorts, however it is now confirmed that the shorts similar in colour and style to the Tracksuit, will be available for order, outlook for these is August 2021. It is thought that these will possibly be more popular with the Boys.

Morven also added that they have managed to receive orders for P1 from the various nurseries.

Chair (Nicki) took the opportunity to thank Laura and Morven for their phenomenal efforts working on the Uniform orders and also for the help with the Facebook responses.

## HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

Mrs Murray added her thanks to Morven and Laura for all their work with the Uniform orders. We are now digital and it looks to be a success! So thanks for this.

Mrs Murray confirmed the name for the new nursery as **Houston Primary Early Learning Childcare**Ensuring the nursery is still deemed to be part of the school. This will be the name printed on the Badges.

Mrs Murray confirmed that she had recently sent out a Video showing a snapshot of the new nursery building prior to its opening last Monday. This video will also be made available on the [HPELCC class blog](https://www.houstonprimaryschool.com/elcc-blog.html).
Mrs Murray relayed the lovely reactions of the children seeing the new building for the first time, and additionally highlighted that some of the children got to ride the bikes down from the old nursery building to the new building on Friday.

Mrs Murray confirmed that the council have done us proud in giving us this amazing new building, everything inside is practically brand new and the colours and all the aesthetics and furniture, are just lovely. Outside the grass has just been laid although not available as yet, however there is still enough temporary outside space for the children to play currently. It is just 1st class!

# New staff members

In accordance with the councils Right for Renfrewshire, there has been an overhaul of council staff within the school. The Janitor has now left us prior to the holidays, and we have 1 member of staff Fiona Morrison who will be joining for both Houston Primary School and Houston Primary ELCC, and will act up as Senior operative.

We have also secured another Senior Operative, who is currently working his notice at his current post.

We also have Natalia (didn’t catch 2nd Name) for lunchtimes and have been sent back to us as she is familiar and knows our facility, and she is currently helping with the agency staff.

Mr Scott (Agency COVID-19 Cleaner has gone on to secured another role as a Senior Operative for facilities. We are so pleased for him and wish him all the best in his new role. We offer huge thanks to him for his meticulous COVID-cleaning to keep us all safe.

Mrs Murray confirmed that funding has been secured for new flooring:

* Phase 1: Replacement flooring is now complete
This has made such a difference for the P6 and whole area of the library and gallery
* Phase 2: Now planned for summer break, to ensure a proper cleanup before return of staff and pupils.

Per details last time, Houston Primary School and Gryffe High school are part of a pilot study of super-fast broadband in the area. The school will provide feedback to the company. It is hoping it will be turned on for term 3 wherein all pupils can log in at once. The school has been gifted 30 chrome books for taking part.

Mrs Murray detailed that we are still awaiting connection to the “super-fast” broadband and delivery of the Chrome books, however she is hopeful that this will be soon.

Mrs Farquhar has received validated confirmation that Houston Primary School has achieved the [Digital Schools Award](https://www.digitalschoolsawards.co.uk/) (<https://www.digitalschoolsawards.co.uk/> ).

Mrs Farquhar detailed that Houston Primary School had to gather and provide a huge amount of evidence for everything we have been doing to try and achieve this award. We also had to produce additional evidence, and because this was done the meeting with the assessors went very well and they were blown away with everything that we have provided.

Mrs Johnstone added that the sway ?? was fantastic, and that Education Scotland asked to show the sway and council asked if it could be shared with Digital Scotland.

Mrs Farquhar also highlighted that fundraising had assisted us to get all the subscriptions required, and it had been 3yrs so far that we have been working towards gaining this prestigious award.

One thing COVID has enabled us all (pupils, staff and possibly parents) is to achieve greater ICT Skills.

In regards the P7s transitions to high school, Mrs Murray has received confirmation from Mr Johnston and Mrs Brown that the pupils will be able to attend Gryffe High School for some experience in 3 sessions Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

For the End of Term celebrations for the P7 pupils keeping in mind their bubbles they will have 1 day out per class at the [James Hamilton Heritage Park](https://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/115/james_hamilton_heritage_park) and will be able to have some fun on the water.

Additionally on the 21st /22nd June , as they are currently mixing outdoors we have planned Beach Party. We have designated party planners working on this and this includes some input from the P7 pupils. This will be an outside event to enable them all to be together. Thus we might be looking for additional Gazebos if there is inclement weather. So hopefully this will provide a lasting memory of Primary 7.

Mrs Murray detailed those teachers who have recently had babies (Mrs Adam, with Blair, Mrs ?? with Eilish and Noola and Mrs ??? With Calleigh? ) and we also have a few teachers soon to be going on maternity leave.

Miss Shuster ?? ( ANAS) – last day coming soon ( 1st week June )

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Richardson retire at the end of June 2021, and there are send off’s planned.

Lorraine Brown will be joining us as ANAS. It will be lovely to have her back, as she was heavily involved supporting the school when her boys were attended.

Mrs Murray also detailed that next years classes will be changing, there will be 19 classes
(15 standard + 4 composite) there will be a complete restructuring, therefore no class will be as it is now. We continue to get enquiries regularly from those moving to the village.

# School Improvement Plans

Staff continue to receive training. We will continue with STEM and Digital, and will continue to upskill on these topics. There is also going to be a Technology Challenge for the P7s.

# Feeback

Elizabeth Lindsay provided feedback on the plans for the P7s end of year celebrations, she said that the kids are ecstatic about plans, and this may be what the pupil opt for going forward.

Nicki concurred with this and said it sounds amazing and looked forward to seeing the pictures from the night. Thanks also for the transition plans.

# School Photos

Mrs Murray confirmed that we are now allowed to bring in a professional photographer. We could take Class photos only there will be no parent helpers allowed at this time. Nicki to Contact Julie Vance again and ask about this year’s photos and Next terms Aug 2021 photos also.

# Finally

No inflatables this year as would require too much sanitizing and is just not workable.

Next Meeting to be confirmed at the start of New term 2021/2021