

Harestanes Primary Parent Discussion Forum

Minute of Meeting

Held in Harestanes Primary School on Tuesday 12 May 2026

Present: Mrs Jillian Grant (Head Teacher)
Michelle MacDonald (Chair)
Heidi Cochrane (Acting Depute Head Teacher)
Donna Male
Caroline Halkett
Lisa Reynolds
Katie Montgomery

1. Welcome, Michelle MacDonald welcomed everyone present
2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Michelle Meechan, Kathryn Pollock, Hebe Clark and Councillor MacDonald.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as being correct by Mrs Halkett and seconded by Mrs Reynolds.

4. Matters Arising

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Councillors Update

As there were no Councillors present, there was no Councillor's update.

6. HT Update

Jillian advised that both term 2 and 3 had been extremely busy with a significant amount of work to make improvements in relationships across the school through leadership opportunities and partnership work.

Our current role is 148 pupils, 25 of which are in our ELR.

Staffing

Jillian was delighted to advise that Heidi Cochran had been appointed DHT.

Additionality to the school had been used to support learners in both literacy and numeracy and this was having a very positive impact.

Miss McGoohan continues as acting PT in the ELR with the job due to be advertised soon.

Miss Meikle, SLA has dropped to 3 days on a temporary basis and Mrs Smith was successful at interview and will cover the 2 days Miss Meikle has dropped.

We had a number of staff absences at the end of last term but Mrs Glover, Mrs McKenna and Mrs Cannon were now back in school. Unfortunately Mrs McParland and Mrs McGuire remain absent and we are unsure when they will return, however we are covering these posts internally.

We currently have 2 maternity leave posts advertised, which have received a good response. Teachers will be in place for us starting back in August.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Clubs continues to run and we currently have 12 pupils attending. The time has been reduced to give a more quality experience and the club will continue for targeted children.

Panto

If we want to go to a Panto we need to start looking at this now. Tickets to the Pavillion cost £17.50 per child then the bus cost is on top of that. Should be buy a Panto in? Look at other alternatives, ie. Cumbernauld Theatre or perhaps going to the cinema for a Christmas film. A summer day trip to Troon was also mentioned at minimal cost to parents.

P7 Leavers

With a view to changing things for our P7s they were asked for their input and they decided they wanted an evening event/disco, not a prom. The leaver's hoodies were issued at the start of this term. PTA confirmed they would give a donation towards P7 leaver's ties for high school.

Family Engagement & Learning

The Open event for parents will have a new format, as parents will not be able to move around the school with their child, as in previous years, due to PVG changes. Each class will plan activities for children and parents to complete together and feedback will be sought during the event. Jillian advised she was aware how difficult it was for working parents to attend all school events. This event will be on a Thursday between 2pm and 3pm.

P1 Transition

Jillian is keen for a member of the Parent Council/Parent Teacher Association to attend our Transition event on 11 June to try and recruit new parents to the Forum and asked if anyone would like to volunteer to attend.

Fundraising

Our Fitness-a-thon on 30 April has raised £1860 for the school fund. Our school fund currently sits at approximately £5,323.73.

SIP

EDC has asked schools to focus on Wellbeing and Inclusion and also Learning, Teaching and Assessment, this is in preparation for the new Curriculum improvement cycle.

Based on self-evaluation, we intend to look at improving school's programme to develop consistency in approach across all classrooms and supporting learners with barriers to literacy, including dyslexia through a range of support such as Clicker. Staff have just undergone their first Clicker training session.

Our new Standards and Quality will be created as a SWAY like the newsletters, and contain photos and videos in a more accessible format.

7. Communication

Jillian was looking for feedback on our communication with parents. Everyone advised that the diary for the year ahead was most useful, as was the weekly diary and SWAY. There was however a lot of inconsistency with the use of Teams across the school and it wasn't always easy to access, especially for more than one child. Glow Blogs may be considered as an alternative to Teams. The yearly calendar will be put on the website moving forward. X should be a closed page and parents no longer with us removed. The authority was keen for schools to use Instagram. It was suggested that we are parents at future events what their preferences might be.

8. Raising the Profile of the School

Jillian advised that we currently have a falling roll but we require to community to know what good work we are doing in school to improve our learners experience and outcomes.

Heidi advised that today she had met with a representative from Morgan Sindall who are keen to run a community project with us in mind. This might be a possible upgrade to the garden, stripping the willow, replacing slabs, painting the ELR fence or revamping a meeting room. Morgan Sindall are going to consider the options and get back to us.

It was discussed that the gates being locked had reduced vandalism but perhaps signed advising that CCTV is in operation might also deter vandals. Michelle suggested that the Kirkintilloch Herald be contacted to run a "under new management" piece. It had been noticed that the whole school atmosphere had improved.

It was suggested that whereas class numbers are low, this is great for children's learning. This should be highlighted along with staff supporting targeted children and promote that the Hamish & Milo is a tool that is used to support children. Perhaps this information could be included on our website and highlight what we are doing at assemblies when parents are in school.

9. Chairperson's Update

Michelle asked if anyone required their paperwork proceed for their PVG applications.

10. PTA Update

Caroline advised that everything was in place for the forthcoming Summer Fayre, but would need names for the teddy tombola. A helper's sheet would be put into the staffroom shortly, after the House Captains had been considered for jobs, as they are keen to help.

Tombola tickets 4 for £1, bouncy castle 5mins for £2, face painting 50p, sponge the teacher 3 for £1, silly string £2.50 and carnival game. Duck pond for little ones too small for bouncy castle. There will also be tea, coffee and cakes.

Heidi advised that she had a gazebo but it required manpower to erect.

Caroline advised that there would be a PTA donation for P7 leavers ties and £100 towards the leavers event.

Caroline and Lisa decided bank account should just stay with the current provided at present and looked at again in the new term.

11. AOCB

Donna asked if there was one form that could be completed for the year to allow children to go on trips/outings. Jillian explained that a separate consent for every outing that involved a mode of transport had to be completed by parents. We did have local walk consents that covered the entire school year. Donna asked if there could be an electronic form that could be completed instead of paper? EV3's can be completed via the Parent Portal, but this required all parents being signed up for the Portal and at present this was not the case.

12. Date of the next meeting:

The Forum's next meeting will be held at the start of the new academic year and to be confirmed at the start of the new term.