



PARENT FORUM NEWS

What's going on...?

It's been very busy over December helping the teachers with backdrops for the nativity 'Hey Ewe' and finding or making costumes. We don't just raise money within the Parent Council – sometimes its our time or skills that are needed to help the school.

Late October, we worked over a couple of lunchtimes to build the bonfire Guy for the **Strathaven Bonfire Guy Competition**. Parents brainstormed some ideas and then the children worked with the parents to build Guy McCoo.

Fundraising is a big part of our work – so far since last August 2019 we have raised over £2000!!!! Some of this money is spent on extra curricular activities for the pupils such as a visit to the Pantomime at Sandford Primary. We also buy snacks and juices for events such as sports day and the Christmas party. But increasingly, the School want to buy new and better educational materials which we are happy to support. Last August the Parent Council agreed to spend around £500 on more materials for the Active Literacy Programme and at the February Meeting, it was agreed to buy more shorter novel type books for the senior classes.

Glassford children are encouraged by their teachers and by the Headteacher to embrace a variety of different experiences – this often requires transport to get to for example, a golf day, or rugby sessions or a visit to the Library. The Parent Council are happy to support the funding of these buses as required. And its all thanks to you, the parents and extended families of the School who support our fundraising and thus enable us to be able to support our children.

So a huge **thank you** to all your support, whether it be helping at school events, coming along to support them, donating raffle prizes, or just buying raffle tickets.

You have made all the difference!

Since August 2019, parent council fund raising has been used to support the school for...

- **Bus transport for school trips**
- **Snacks**
- **Educational materials**
- **Active Literacy**
- **Novels**

and will be used for much, much more!

Communication with the **Parent Forum** (which is YOU) is via the **parent forum facebook page**, or the **School website** and newsletters in the school bags.

Please feel free to respond or get in touch with ideas or comments at any point. We all want to do the best we can and make things even better for all the children. We can only do

this if you tell us what's good and what could be improved upon and we will assist where we can!

Get involved!

How did we raise the money?

Through a very successful Christmas Fair, donations at the Christmas Shows, bag packing at Sainsbury's, regular ragbag collections, entering the Strathaven Bonfire Guy Competition...these are just some of the ways.

We're a small group of parents but we always need more people to get involved – even if its just at one of the events for half an hour or attending a meeting now and again.

YOUR ideas are IMPORTANT as well as any TIME or SKILLS you can offer.

GIVE AND GET BACK!!!!!!



Do you shop online? Raise funds FREE for our school. No cost, no catch - raise free donations for us every time you shop online with @easyuk!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/glassfordprimaryschool/>

Dates for the Diary

16.03.20	Rag Bag Kerbside Collection
01.04.20	Parent's Evening
28.04.20	Parent Council Meeting
20.06.20	Glassford Gala Day

Get in Touch

If you wish to contact the Parent Council, you can do so by e-mailing, phoning or speaking to the Secretary- **Christine Hall**
e-mail alanchrillah@gmail.com or 07719 775 796.

<https://www.facebook.com/glassfordprimary/>

Join the 'Glassford Parent Forum' Closed Facebook Group

Alternatively, speak to Mrs Donnelly or Mrs Gilfillan at the School and they will be happy to pass on a message.

Parent Council Meetings... WHAT GOES ON??

The meetings are usually held on Tuesday evenings at 7pm every 6 weeks or so. We discuss fundraising and what is coming up but Mrs Donnelly gets to discuss and raise topics that she needs input on. For example last week we were talking about a survey that has just been issued to all families as part of an exercise titled 'The Cost of the School Day'. We know there are 'hidden' costs that children face during the school year – we want to identify what these are and help as much as we can. Things like dress down days; school trips, new uniform mid way through term (our children keep growing and costing us money!) or activity weeks can all be a big strain on a limited budget. If you find yourself struggling and worrying about affording these things – please speak to the School for support. Please fill in the survey so we can try to help where we can. All the surveys are anonymous and will be a great help to the School.

Other examples of what was discussed was:

- **the new intake for August 2020**
- **how the school is using the Food Technology grant and what the children are experiencing in this area**
- **Some detail about 'Developing the Young Workforces' and how Strathaven Academy along with the other local Primary Schools are tailoring the curriculum to teach skills that will be needed for the job markets in years to come.**

All the Minutes from the Meetings are made available to you, nothing is secret or hidden. And we continually strive to spread the word out there that the only reason we meet is for the good of our School and the children. We are all busy people with lots of time pressures – that's why we try to keep the meetings brief – only 1.5 hours maximum every 6 weeks!

There are other reasons to get involved as well – research as shown that children whose parents get involved in school have better results and less disciplinary problems. We are social too, yes its hard work sometimes but it can be fun and you do get to meet other like minded parents with the same aims as you. Its good to get to know the teachers better too and we do that by meeting them at meetings. Every one of our teachers has attended meetings in the past year, in their own free time.