**Kirklandneuk Primary School 2020-2021**

**Parent Teacher Association**

Dear Parents / Carers

Hello and a belated welcome to another school year at Kirklandneuk Primary School. This letter is to introduce the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and give an outline of the events that we organise for the children throughout the school year.

**Role of the PTA**

The PTA is an organisation of parents and staff whose role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTAs are best known for their fundraising work and last year we raised nearly **£6000, which allowed us to run our school community events and enabled us to donate approximately half of this amount to the school to fulfil school wish list requests.** Funds raised by the PTA are intended to provide extras not already provided by the school's main income. In the past we have bought new playground equipment, sports clothing and iPads for the children as well as each year organising four school discos, a Christmas Fete, a Burns’ Night Ceilidh for Primary 6 and donations towards the Primary 7’s Leavers Dance and Ties.

Our most recent donation of £2500 will be used to purchase and introduce a new whole school behaviour system to support health and well being, online learning resources and outdoor PE resources. Last session, due to lockdown and cancellation of school events, we made an alternative contribution to the outgoing primary 7 year group where we funded the cost of their leavers hoodies. Due to current restrictions the school have requested that we fund this again for the current Primary 7 year group.

Our main goal this year will be to continue to support the usual school events and help run them in alternative conditions so that the current year groups still have the opportunity to similar or alternative experiences in school as in previous years. Together with the school staff we have identified the outdoor area as a key priority requiring funds this year. The school are keen to improve their outdoor resources to help provide better outdoor learning opportunities for all, to support the physical and emotional health and well being of our children. Along with the Parent Council we are working to help the school make application bids for various funding to help meet these costs.

**Volunteering**

In pre Covid times the PTA usually rely on volunteers to make these events a success. Any help, even just an hour of your time, can make a huge difference. We hope these days will return again soon, but in the meantime, we have moved online and now hold our meetings via Zoom. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please register your interest by contacting the PTA. Even if things are a little different just now, taking part in the PTA is a great way to get to know your child’s teacher and school staff better, understand how the school works, and allows you to have a say in how PTA funds are used to benefit your child’s school experience.

If you are interested in taking a more active role and joining the PTA committee in the future, then please let us know and we can arrange for you to learn more about the roles and activities run by the PTA.

This year’s PTA volunteer committee are:

PTA Co-Chairs – Catrina Stewart & Nicola Stoney

PTA Secretary – Kristina Semple

PTA Treasurer – Laura Mc Quillan

**Main PTA Events**

Discos. Unfortunately, we will not be able to run the usual discos for this session. The school Disco’s are very popular termly events and account for a large amount of our fundraising income and we will consider alternative options carefully.

Halloween Disco - October 2020 – Alternative Halloween Fun Day ( Not for Profit Event)

Christmas Disco - December 2020 – Alternative Event to be confirmed

Spring Disco - March 2021 - Alternative Event to be confirmed

Summer Disco - May 2021 - Alternative Event to be confirmed

Christmas Fete. Every year we have a Christmas fete at the end of November, which is usually very well attended and is the main fundraising event for the PTA. We hope to run the usual raffle through alternate means and some small elements like calendars etc. will be undertaken by the school staff.

P6 Ceilidh. Each January we hold a Burns’ night dinner and dance for the P6 pupils. This year’s Ceilidh will still go ahead but will not be open to families in the usual way. Alternative details to be confirmed Jan 2020.

**New Directions for Fundraising in 2020**

50 /50 Raffle

We are hoping to introduce a new monthly fundraising 50/50 Raffle. Parents, family and friends will have the opportunity to purchase number lines at the cost of £2 per line. The raffle will be held on the last Friday of each month, a winner will be selected and will receive 50% of the prize pot contributions with the remaining 50% going to school funds. Details are being finalised and information will follow very soon.

Easyfundraising.org

The school PTA has reactivated an easyfundraising.org account to which various online retailers donate a percentage to the school funds when friends and families join up and then shop online through their site. This is an especially easy way to support funds with so much online shopping taking place at present. Information will follow in further communications with social media links to access and our cause account.

Community Spirit

Kirklandneuk Primary PTA has always been very grateful for the fact that we are blessed to have such a fantastic and generous community spirit within the school staff, families, friends and local community. However, we as a PTA, are very aware that many people have had a difficult time this past year since the start of the Lockdown to current times and that for many the future may hold some amount of uncertainty and concern. We would like to endeavour to continue to work together with the school to ensure that the children feel as little impact as possible and will work to help school staff to enhance all our children’s school experiences as best, we can. This year we are having to think of alternative ways to fundraise and hold events that adhere to specific guidance due to the virus. With that in mind we are also aware of the fact that many of the local businesses that usually support us may also be navigating difficult circumstances under new and changing guidance.

We would therefore kindly ask that if you are in a position to support us, please do so. Perhaps you use a local business or work for a business that would donate or sponsor us or perhaps they offer match funding for community groups or perhaps you own your own business and would be able to help us. This could be perhaps be through donating raffle prizes, sponsors or maybe you have a talent or skills that could contribute to help us throughout the coming months.

The next PTA meeting is (via zoom) on 4th **November 2020 at 1800** to plan possible Christmas Events and will look towards the coming year. If you are interested in helping out or have any questions or ideas to help us, please come along to the meeting or get in touch with one of the committee members. We can be contacted either in person, through the Kirklandneuk Primary School Parents Group and School Council Facebook page, or through the School Office. We now also have a new PTA email address Kirklandneuk.pta@gmail.com on which we can be contacted with your enquiries or requests for online zoom meeting invites.

Looking forward to another successful year with your continued support and generosity.

Catrina & Nicola

KPS PTA Co Chairs

Please register my interest in volunteering for PTA events this year (2020-2021).

Name: ………………………………………………………. Phone number: ……………………………

Email address …………………………………………………………………………………

Parent/carer of: ……………………………………………... Room: …………………………………….