



# Abbeyhill Primary School Parent Council Chair Report

## Session in Review

Parent Council activity throughout the year focused on welcoming back our school community following the restrictions of the Covid-19 Pandemic. It's been wonderful to be able to invite children and families to join events outside of school hours. Most of the events this year have been about bringing the children together to have fun without their grown ups present. Next year we'll be looking for more opportunities to bring families together, not just the children. We know this is something that families with children who aren't at the school would like to see.

## Summer Garden Party

The Summer Garden Party in June was the first event we ran post-Covid and was a great success. This was due to all the hard work of the organisation committee:

Melanie Chuprasova, Ann Pratt, Melissa Sturgeon, Emma Fordie, Suzanne Macdiarmid. We're all looking forward to the next party on 10 June, preparations for which are now well underway.

## Summer Gardening

Parental involvement doesn't stop over the holidays! Some of our families helped to keep our garden growing through the summer, resulting in an amazing harvest when school started again. We'll be looking for volunteers to help keep our garden growing over the summer again; volunteers can sign up during the Garden party on the Parent Council stall. This will also be an opportunity to share with us how you'd like to use the garden in the future. This was always planned to be a community space so we'd love to hear how you would like to be involved.

## AiR Garden pARTy

Whilst the summer garden party is a lovely way to say goodbye at the end of the year, this year we also started what we hope will be a new tradition to welcome everyone back again when the Artists in Residence threw their first Garden pARTy. This was an opportunity to share all the wonderful art that our pupils have been working on throughout the year as part of the Artists in Residence programme. Our garden pARTy for next session will be held on Friday 15 September, and will mark 10 years of our Artists in Residence programme.

## Halloween Parties

The Halloween parties were a great opportunity for the children to celebrate an important date in the Scottish seasonal calendar (did you know Trick or Treating and Pumpkin lanterns have their origins in the Scottish traditions of Guising and carving turnips?) All who attended had a fantastic time and the screams from the scary corridor were so loud you could hear them half way up Abbey Street!

## Uniform Collection for Ukrainian Refugees

Our uniform exchange was able to support a shout out from Victoria Primary in Leith, who were looking for uniform for Ukrainian children that had enrolled whilst they are refugees from the war in Ukraine. We were able to provide 13 complete uniform sets for girls in P4-P7, which was the area of greatest need. We were also able to donate a number of bikes to be used by the children. These had previously been donated to Abbeyhill by Network Rail prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our uniform exchange is there to help Abbeyhill be a more sustainable school, but it was great to also



be able to help those who have had to flee their homes and country to settle into their new school lives in Scotland.

We also moved the uniform bank from being available sometimes to being available all the time, thought the installation of a new unit in the school foyer. Parents and children can now help themselves to uniform items any time they're needed. Perfect for a mid-term growth spurt.

## Fundraising Calendar

As we moved closer to Christmas it was time for our annual fundraising calendar. Unfortunately sales of the calendar were down this year compared with previous years. This is likely because of the impact of raising prices affecting just how much everyone had to spare, so we're incredibly grateful to everyone that did buy a copy. The P7 house captains and P6 vice captains did a great job on the sales team

One of the things parents have told us is that they love having a permanent reminder of their child's time at a stage through the artwork in the calendar. If you missed out and would like to get a copy, we'll have these with us at the summer garden party and you can donate whatever you want for a copy.

## Playground Decoration

Thanks to a community grant from 10 Villages that was awarded in April 2022 and some additional funding from the Parent Council, new playground markings were installed just before Easter. It's been lovely to see the children playing with these before school and I'm sure they're getting a lot of use throughout the day. We've also been able to finally hang the large vinyl banners we received from the Edinburgh International Book Festival. In the spirit of sustainability you've hopefully also seen that the junior road safety officers have used the reverse of one of these to remind people not to stop on the double yellow lines on Brand Place for drop off and pick up.

## Skills Register

We launched the Abbeyhill [skills register](#) as a way for the parent forum and our wider Abbeyhill community to tell us the skills you have and are willing to share. It is hoped this will make it easier to find people with the right skills to help with Events, Projects and other Parent Council activities and will play an important role in helping to rebuild our community of volunteers post-Covid.



## What's Happening Next Session?

We'd love to do all of the same things next year, and more! Once we know how you'd like to be involved in the community garden, we're hoping to find ways for those that are interested to help out all year. We already know when some things will be happening next year, but we'd love to hear from the parent forum what else you'd like to get involved with.

June 2023		July 2023		August 2023			
AGM	Summer Garden Party	Help look after the garden over summer					
		Help organise the Artist in Residence Garden pARTy					
		Community Garden					
September 2023		October 2023		November 2023		December 2023	
PC Meeting - Cluster secondary presentation	Garden pARTy	Organise Halloween Party			PC Meeting		
Fundraising Calendar - Lots of opportunities to get involved							
Community Garden							
January 2024		February 2024		March 2024		April 2024	
		PC Meeting				Help organise the Summer Garden Party	
Community Garden							
May 2024		June 2024		July 2024		August 2024	
PC Meeting		Playground Tidy	AGM				
Help Organise the Summer Garden Party			Summer Garden party				
Community Garden							