



HPPC Newsletter

Autumn & Winter 2025/26

HPPC Role

Hermitage Primary Parents Council (HPPC) is a group made up of and led by parents and carers from the Hermitage Primary community which exists to support the work of the school. The HPPC aims to support communication between parents and teachers and to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to the education and welfare of pupils at the school. We engage in activities, including fundraising, to support and advance the education of pupils attending the school. The HPPC exists to represent the views of parents and carers.

A new committee and a new set of voting members are elected annually at the start-of-year AGM in September. If you would like to stand as a voting member or a committee member and you have questions, don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details at the end of this newsletter, or grab us at the school gate:

HPPC Co-Chairs: Gareth Beale and Nicole Beale



HPPC Secretary: Lisa Walker



HPPC Treasurer: Angela McCann



HPPC Outgoing Committee

Thanks to the outgoing committee for HPPC. In particular the Co-Chairs, Vicky Brindley and Kristy Muir, who have been instrumental in reinvigorating the HPPC's role and have led so many great activities over the past few years.

New Committee Members

There are a few new faces on the committee this year and some familiar ones.

Events and Fundraising

This year we have two key areas for fundraising – **Library Improvements** and **Improvements to Outdoor Space**. Our event-based fundraising will be targeted towards these priorities as well as responding to one-off requests for funding from the school. The money we have raised has allowed us to invest in **Playground Planters** for the kids to get gardening, **New P1 and P2 Reading Books**, **New Nativity Costumes**, **Crackers for Christmas Lunch**.

Upcoming Spring / Summer Events

Family Quiz Night 29th January

The Hermitage Primary Parent Council Family Quiz Night is coming to the Helensburgh Cricket and Rugby Club on 29th January.

- Test your trivia skills
- Laugh along with our special guest Bard Speaker – Stuart Brodie!
- Not forgetting our Star Guest Quiz master
- A brilliant night for families, friends & quiz fans

Doors open 7pm. Quiz starts 7:30pm

Tickets £5 - Available on the door or www.ticketsource.co.uk/hermitage-primary-school-parent-council (£4 for Rugby Club members).

Spring Disco and Summer Fair

Dates for the Spring Disco and Summer Fair will be announced shortly on EduSpot, in parent/carer year group What'sApp groups and on HPPC social media channels.

Autumn / Winter 2025 Events

Halloween Disco

Our annual HPPC Halloween Disco in October was a spooky affair with lots of dancing and music. Fun free and pocket money games were provided by the HPPC volunteers with prizes as well as free and paid refreshments. A highlight was the delicious fruit punch provided by the team at Nature's Harvest in town and the beautiful cakes and biscuits baked by school staff and families. We were so impressed with all the brilliant costumes!

Thank-you to everyone who volunteered and contributed time to planning and delivering the disco. The event had a total profit of £408 for HPPC which will be spent on improvements to the library and outdoor spaces.



Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair in early December provided a warm space to celebrate the coming of Winter, where families were able to buy Christmas-themed decorations made in class and organised by the school's creative teaching and support staff. The HPPC volunteers provided free and paid refreshments with donations from Costa Helensburgh, Tesco Garage Helensburgh, and others. The Christmas jumpers swap was very popular, and we spotted a few of the sparkly tops in the Nativity Show later in the year. We were again so happy to receive wonderful donations of baked treats for the event as well as some very impressive entries to the Christmas Bake Off.

Many of our excellent local organisations and individuals provided prizes for the tombola and the raffle, which included vouchers, tickets, and bundles from the Bird of Prey Centre, Laura Kate, Monty's Farm Park, The Toy Shop Helensburgh, Muirheads Dairy, Mi Tierra, Eutopia Hairdressers, The Entertainer Braehead, Clydebank Omniplex Cinema, Smiggle Braehead, Portavadie (Ian Jurgensen and team), and more.

We are very grateful to everyone who volunteered time and expertise to the event. Without you, the Christmas Fair would not have been possible. The event made a total of £1,605 of profit, which will be used to buy new furniture for the school library.



Prospective Pupils Evening

In November, HPPC hosted a drop in evening for parents and carers of prospective P1 pupils. Several families attended and we shared our experiences of the school as parents of current pupils and had a tour of the building.

Christmas Crackers and Nativity Costumes

We were delighted to see the P1s sporting the new nativity costumes, funded by the HPPC. The Christmas Lunch went off with a bang with Christmas crackers provided by the HPPC. We also included some silent crackers for those who enjoy the jokes but not the noise.

Book Fair Match Funding

The HPPC provided £500 match funding this year for the Scholastic Book Fair in November with funds going towards library improvements.

Thanks to everyone who helped make these events possible!



Parents for Active Learning (PAL)

PAL is a parents and carers run volunteer organisation working with the school to improve the school's outdoor spaces and support outdoor learning.

Buzz Days

PAL have 'Buzz Days' on the last Tuesday of every month where we get the gardening tools out and tidy up an area of the school grounds.

If you would like to join in, just come along after school and look for the people with spades! Parents, carers and kids are all very welcome. Come along for as long or short a time as you like.



Playground Campaign

A group of parents of the school together with community members have been campaigning for the derelict Annex site in our playground to be turned back over for use to the school.

The Helensburgh Sports Trust was officially formed this year, which has a vision of the site being adequate for a 5-a-side sports pitch.

The group continues to meet with our local councillors to take steps to ensure the land is not turned over for use of affordable housing, which is the current plan. We hope to have official notification that the land can remain for the School in early 2026 and then we can sit with the school and council about best use of the site. Fundraising efforts continue from the Trust to future-proof the site.

Support the campaign

If anyone wants to offer help or support you can contact the chair of the Trust Lizzie Donaldson at pal.hermitageprimary@gmail.com

HPPC Membership

All parents are welcome to attend our meetings, and also to join the HPPC as a voting member. To explain this further, all parents and carers with children at the school are automatically part of the Parents Forum. The Parents Council (HPPC) is a smaller elected group which exists to represent the Parents Forum. These voting HPPC members are made up of around 25 individuals. All parents can attend HPPC meetings but only those who are members of the HPPC can vote at the meetings. We welcome you to our meetings to help us to make decisions about future activities to support our children.



Hive Prize Lottery Update

We're delighted to share some exciting news about The Hive Prize Lottery since its relaunch in August! With a fresh new look, improved advertising, and the introduction of a simple Google Form sign-up, we've seen steady month-on-month growth in participation from our school community.

What does this mean for the school?

Monthly income has risen from £220 at relaunch to £300, for January's draw on the 15th

Where does the money go?

50% goes directly to Hermitage Primary, supporting school resources and activities. The remaining 50% is paid out to three lucky winners every month.

Popular monthly draw videos

Our new draw videos, featuring the bingo machine, continue to be a big hit, averaging over 400 views each month. The draw is released on the 15th of every month.

License update

Our Gambling License has been successfully renewed and is fully paid through 2026, at a cost of just £20.

If you'd like to find out more or get involved, please email:

hermitageprimarypc@outlook.com

Thank you for your continued support—every number truly makes a difference!



Contact us

The HPPC has a dedicated email address that you can use to contact us if you have any ideas or comments that you'd like to share with us.

You can contact us at:

hppcenquiries@outlook.com

Next HPPC Meeting

Wednesday 4th February at 7.15-8.45pm in person at the school and online. A link will be circulated via EduSpot.

All are welcome!