



Hermitage Primary Parent Council Newsletter Spring/Summer 2026

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 aims 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 aims to encourage all to share their views and opinions.

Committee update

A new committee and a new set of voting members will be elected at the start-of-year AGM in September 2026.

Many members will continue to be involved but there are some upcoming vacancies. Gareth and Nicole will be stepping down as co-Chairs in September 2026.

Due to P7 pupils moving on, some of our key members will also be stepping down. We thank them for their years of

service on the Parents Council, and we wish their P7s the best of luck in their new schools!

A call for new members

All members will be reelected in September 2026. We will need more representatives next year. Within the voting committee, each year group normally has two reps who arrange the Facebook and WhatsApp comms for the parents. All members are engaged in fundraising plans and attend the bimonthly evening parent council meetings with the school's leadership team.

We are a supportive and inclusive group and we welcome members. New core committee members will be supported for their tenure by the outgoing members. No prior committee experience is required; All are welcome to join.

If you would like to stand as a voting member and you have questions, don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details at the end of this newsletter. The nomination form is available online via Eduspot.

Deadline for nominations is the 1st September.

Events and Fundraising

This year we have two key areas for fundraising – **Library Improvements** and **Improvements to Outdoor Space**. Our event-based fundraising has been targeted towards these priorities as well as responding to one-off requests for funding from the school. Since January, we have made several purchases, including: **P1 communal area toys, P1-P2 sandpit, Library furniture and fittings, P1-P2 outdoor toys and games, netball and football goals for all year groups, P1 welcome gifts, P7 goodbye celebration.**

Spring / Summer Events

The income generated by the past six months of events has been spent on improvements to the library and outdoor spaces.

Family Quiz Night

The Hermitage Primary Parent Council Family Quiz Night at the Commodore was a great follow-up to the January event. The May Quiz had excellent attendance. It was a huge amount of fun and raised money for the school community.

Ticket costs were kept as low as possible, at £5, and a large part of the income came from our raffles. We welcome any ideas from parents and carers for future similar events.

Profit: £924.01

Spring Disco

Free to attend, the Spring Disco was a busy evening, and we danced the night away in our party clothes and enjoyed the tuck stall and bake sale.

Profit: £460.67



Some of the yummy cakes on offer. Photo by Sarah Johansen.

Summer Fair

Free to attend, the Summer Fair this year was on the theme of gratitude. Pupils designed Thank-You certificates, were presented on the day to those who have been particularly supportive of the HPPC and school over the years.

Despite the random rain showers, we still had lots of fun indoors and out. Some of our pupils sold some fab homemade items.

Thank-you to the volunteers, pupils, staff, and external organisations and individuals who took part in stalls and activities.

Profit: £992.31

Thanks to everyone who helped make these events possible!

Parents for Active Learning (PAL)

A sub-set of the Parents Council called the Parents for Active Learning (PAL) are focused on playground improvements.

The group organised the sandpit, planters, blackboard, and mud kitchens at the infant end. Next year it's the senior end of the school we want to focus on.

PAL is delighted to see the new football and netball nets for the playground coming for the start of the new term but there is more to do!

Let the school office know if you or your family want to join in after school volunteering activities in the playground including Buzz Days; you can bring your children and they really learn to take pride in their playground.

School Summer clean-up

You will have noticed that there is lots of maintenance work to do to manage the green spaces in front of the school and car park. Over the summer holidays, parents and family are welcome to pop along to the open access areas at the front and side of the school and carry out weeding, lopping, strimming, etc. as it is needed.

No need to contact the school for this, all are welcome to remove a dandelion or 50... Keep a trowel in your car and pull out a weed whenever you drive past!

Save the Annex campaign

We are delighted to report progress has been made on the piece of land called the Annex in the back of the playground, in March 2026 a cross-party councillor motion was passed which says the land cannot be disposed of until an education strategy review is complete in 2027 to decide if the school footprint is adequate.

A group of parents and community members formed the Helensburgh Sports Trust who focus on this, if you want to take part speak to Lizzie Donaldson:
pal.hermitageprimary@gmail.com



The new sandpit in the sunshine.

Get involved with PAL

PAL would like to thank the school for all their support with improving the outdoor space at the school. There is more work to do, and we welcome involvement from any parents and family who would like to support.

Hive Prize Lottery Update

Please consider taking part in the Hive Prize Lottery. This is one of our key sources of funding. This year, the money has been used to support buying reading resources and upgrading the library, playground upgrades, the P1 welcome and P7 goodbye, and new nativity play costumes. The draw is released on the 15th of every month.

What does this mean for the school?

The annual income for the Hive Prize was over £3,000 for 2025/26 and so it represents a sizeable portion of our fundraising. 50% goes directly to Hermitage Primary, supporting school resources and activities. The remaining 50% is paid out to three lucky winners every month.

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

hermitageprimarypc@outlook.com



Thanks to all staff

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to send thanks to all the teachers, administrators, and many support staff who facilitate our children's school experience.

Special thanks go also to the Toast Club team who support our children every morning and work hard to provide breakfasts for all who attend.

We are so thankful for all that you do, and we wish you a relaxing time of rest and recovery over the summer period.

Leadership at the school

This year, a considerable effort has been made by HPPC to help support the school's outgoing and incoming leadership.

We are so happy that the recent Acting Head, Gemma Houston, has remained in the local area, working with the central Education Team, and we welcome Paul Mulvenna as the new Acting Head.

We will continue to participate in the process of recruitment where invited and the committee is involved in the interview process for the Acting Deputy Head.

We thank Paul Mulvenna and Lynda McMurdo for all their hard work to support the school community while these changes have taken place.

Social media and consent

HPPC has requested that we work with the school in the next academic year to examine the school's use of social media. The school currently uses Twitter/X and Facebook. Please look out for a call in September from HPPC for parents to contribute to a consultation on social media use and consent. We welcome involvement from any parents who have expertise or interest in this area.

Parent communication

This year, the HPPC campaigned for improved information about pupils' learning. We welcome the new school website and have a dedicated section for the HPPC where we share minutes from meetings, events and fundraising updates, and this biannual newsletter:

<https://www.hermitage-pri.argyll-bute.sch.uk/parent-council/>

We also congratulate the school on the new termly topic learning information which has been a great contribution. We are also delighted to hear that Seesaw is being investigated as a whole school image sharing platform.

Sharing parent expertise

We would like to focus next on improving support for parents who would like to volunteer their expertise as the school to tie in with learning and we will be working with school staff to find ways to communicate upcoming needs

for volunteers in a timely manner to enable as many parents as possible to get involved in the pupil experience and indeed in supporting other parents with skills sharing. If you have any ideas about this potential area, please contact us.

Quick look: Finances

School year 2025/26 -

Funds raised: £7,440

Funds spent: £7,030

Funds from prior year's fundraising -

Funds committed: £5,820

Surplus funds remaining: £5,000

Across 2024/25 and 2025/26 we have spent £22,850.

Key fundraising areas spending:

54% of spending on the library/reading

24% of spending on the playground

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

The next meeting will be the HPPC AGM in mid-September. This will be in person at the school and online at approx. 7:15-8:30pm. A link will be circulated via EduSpot.

All are welcome!