

## Parent Council Meeting

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015

1. Apologies: All present

2. Update from last meeting:

The induction booklet for Year R parents was updated to include a PTA section and a section explaining the house system, as suggested. Mrs Lonie had received a helpful email from an existing Year R parent with suggestions for further additions, which have been included.

3. Communication including the use of Parentmail:

Mrs Lonie asked if the number of parentmail communications was excessive as this had been commented on by one parent. A discussion took place regarding school emails and those sent to school for distribution from outside organisations, such as the community centre and holiday clubs. It was generally agreed that the level of communication from the school was appropriate and that the additional emails about outside opportunities were useful but should have a bold and clear subject header so that busy parents could opt to read or delete quickly. It was also decided that they should only be distributed if considered community events/information.

There have been some issues for individual parents with the change-over from the old Parentmail system to the new. Mrs Lonie will remind parents about the information sent previously and how downloading the app makes the process much easier.

4. Assessment:

Mrs Lonie shared the assessment letter being distributed today to parents, updating them with recent assessment news. It was agreed that the letter was clear and useful for parents. A suggestion was made to include a link to the DfE website but unfortunately the information there was not specific to school practices so would not have added any additional support for parents. A comment to reassure parents will be added to the July newsletter.

5. Results:

Mrs Lonie shared the fantastic SATs, phonics and Early Years results with the council. These will be shared with the wider school community on the newsletter next week and on the website.

6. Home Learning, including Mymaths:

As discussed last time, it was felt generally that the Mymaths and Learning Logs provide a good level of support and challenge for pupils but that parents may not fully understand their possibilities. An additional workshop will be run in the autumn term to explain this further, led by Mrs Barber.

It was felt that some of Owl class pupils' interest had waned in term 6. Previous suggestions for changes next year should support improvements:

Year 6 pupils would:

- use a homework diary
- set themselves deadlines for home learning tasks
- produce at least one task a week
- complete at least one writing activity from the options

Fox Class learning log tasks for the Tunbridge Wells topic seemed to focus heavily on writing and less on the creative opportunities. The balance of opportunities will be reviewed for next year.

7. Challenger Troop:

Mrs Lonie asked for comments on a new pilot project which will start next year. The school, along with four other local schools, will employ a member of Challenger Troop to work with pupils for one day a week on developing life skills such as resilience, collaboration, determination, etc. The focus will be on Years 2 to 6. The project was received positively. More information will follow once the project is underway.

8. Any Other Business:

- i. Can we have an update for parents on the new build and the development of the woodland?

Unfortunately the former has slowed down the latter. Mrs Lonie will discuss the developments with pupils and will send out an update on her newsletter. Once the works are finished, the outdoor classroom (PTA project) can be organised. The pond installation is booked in for November and resources for pupils (hammocks, rugs, cushions, seating) have arrived and are being stored in the new woodland shed while we await the completion of the build.

- ii. Can we have a noticeboard in the playground to support communication?  
Yes, this is planned once the build is finished.

iii. Who will be the parent council class representatives next year?

Members all agreed that they would be happy to continue as follows:

Year R: New representative required

Year 1: Emma Hunt

Year 2: Shazia Khan-Tootal

Year 3: Candi Keates

Year 4: Gareth Jones

Year 5: New representative required

Year 6: Tabitha Henna

PTA Liaison: Louise Houghton

Mrs Lonie will ask parents for any additional candidates for existing classes and new representatives for Years R and 5. Once established, we will send out a letter regarding best ways of communicating, e.g. a facebook page.

The representatives were thanked for their support and help over the last 12 months.