

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 10th December 2015

1. Apologies: Michelle (Yr 5), Rachel (Yr R)

2. Update from last meeting:

ii. Clubs:

A letter outlining the changes was sent out in December with spring term club options. This has been well-received by parents who feel it is a fairer way of doing it. Letters are Parentmailed and a hard copy is sent home to ensure information is shared.

It was noted that there are few opportunities for Years R and 1 next term. This is due to confidence levels of external providers in working with younger children and some of our clubs run by staff preparing for KS2 events such as Young voices and Cross Country. The school will continue to seek out as many opportunities as possible but know that the children will be able to access these exciting opportunities as they move up the year groups.

iii. Drop-Off/Pick-Up Arrangements (and the creation of a new path to ease these):

Mrs Lonie explained that the process for selecting a company to do any school works is long and time-consuming. The decision is now at the governors' stage and hopefully will be resolved by the end of January. This will ensure arrangements can be put in place for the benefit and safety of the children.

iv. Home Learning:

Mrs Barber ran a Home Learning workshop this term to explain further how the learning log can be used to challenge children and to clarify any points raised regarding Mymaths. Parents from Yrs 2 and above were very positive about the use of Mymaths and used the opportunity to reassure the Year 1 parents about this. The Year 1 teacher

has also introduced a maths home learning book in which she explains each week the expectations for home learning, be this using Mymaths or another game or activity. This has been found to be useful. It is felt, however, that clearer written explanations could be provided to help parents to support their children.

3. Development of the Parent Body:

Mrs Lonie explained that she had met with Emma, CEO of PTA UK and Year R representative to discuss a strategic plan to improve parental involvement in all aspects of school life. This was a very useful meeting and a further meeting will take place to discuss ideas in term 3, involving Emma as Parent Council Representative, Mrs Lonie, the PTA Chair, our Family Liaison Officer and the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors. This will become a recurring item on the agenda of the Parent Council after Christmas.

4. Terms of Reference:

Mrs Lonie and the Council agreed their Terms of Reference to clarify the purpose and role of the Parent Council as it stands currently. This may change in light of the discussions next year.

5. Communication:

Mrs Lonie will arrange for parent emails to be provided for representatives to support good communication. Parents will be notified in different ways about this in January and thought will be given to ensure these details are not shared amongst other parents.

6. Home-School Agreement:

This has been two years in the making as the new Leadership Team needed time to create the vision, aims and core values of the school first. The agreement was well-received but it was felt that the core values could be represented even more strongly with re-organisation of the statements. A working group from the Parent Council will meet in January to improve this and meet with Mrs Lonie to discuss by the end of term 3.

7. Website Update:

Representatives were asked to look at a website on which our updated website will be based. It was well-received as it looks modern and images are an integral part of the look. Mrs Lonie is currently working on this and hopes to have it live by Easter.

Representatives asked if the First Aid Policy and E-Safety Policies could be added, along with a page about the residential trips. This will all be added as part of the update.

8. AOB:

i. Data:

The use of USB sticks in school was questioned. It will be clarified with staff that if children are to bring in data on USB sticks, they are to be handed to the class teacher. Children should not be taking data home from school machines. Ideally, data should be sent to the class teacher via email.

ii. School Lunches:

While infant dinners are large, it is felt by some older pupils that portions are too small. This has been discussed with kitchen staff since the meeting, and they have agreed to provide portions according to age as much as they are permitted to within their company's rules.

iii. Residential Trips:

Mrs Lonie was asked to clarify what the school insurance included. This will be shared with parents after Christmas. Cancellations on the day were also discussed – clarification will be sent out also.

Next Meeting: Thursday 11th February 2016 at 9am