

Parent Council

Thursday 19th January 2017

1. Apologies: Dawn, Michelle, Candi, Tanya

2. Matters arising from the last meeting:

The idea to run a competition to encourage pupils to donate gift jars for the Christmas fair turned out to be a great idea and resulted in a good number of jars. The fair was a real success.

The new reversible jackets arrived but with the logo missing, so they have been sent back for finishing. A number of parents have put in an order.

Next year's photograph day has been booked for Term 1 to avoid the costly clash with Children in Need.

School Council members have discussed the repetition of elected representatives and decided that they would introduce a rule that members cannot serve for two consecutive years, moving forward.

Mrs Barber will organise the hoodies for Year 6 leavers. The leaving barbecue will go ahead in Term 6.

3. 'Parents and Friends of Broadwater'

Mrs Lonie explained that the Community Links Group was yet to meet but she was keen to get started to maximise parent/volunteer involvement. Dawn Stanford will meet with Mrs Lonie and Mrs Barber to plan actions in the coming weeks.

Mrs Lonie asked reps to recruit parents to support Creative Week and Book Week, the next two curriculum enhancement opportunities planned.

4. Communication:

Mrs Lonie asked representatives to confirm that a facebook page had been set up. Years 1 and 3 confirmed this to be the case. Katya volunteered to take the dual role of rep for Years 3 and 5 in the absence of a Year 5 volunteer, and will set up a page in the next few days, under the agreed title 'BWD Y5 Class 2016/2017' as a closed group.

Mrs Lonie will send the details of parents who have signed the acceptable use agreement to reps to invite to the page. Any parents wishing to join from now on will need to go through the school office and sign the agreement before being invited to join. Parents who were already on the page but have not signed the acceptable use agreement, will be asked to do so.

5. Reports to Parents:

Mrs Lonie shared the proposed report to parents, to replace the report usually sent out in March. The new report provides simple information regarding attainment levels and attitude in each subject. It prevents duplication of information about what children are learning, as this is provided in newsletters each term. A letter of explanation will be sent to parents with the reports. Parental response to the changes was very positive.

6. Disability Equality Scheme and Equality Plan:

Mrs Lonie shared the school's policy and plan. Parents were surprised at the level of thought and detail in the plan. Mrs Lonie explained some of the recent improvements: widening of the pedestrian path and replacement of the hall door to improve access for wheelchair users. She also explained contingency plans if a child with a physical disability joined the school. The school was built in the 1970s with little consideration for disabled pupils, parents or staff but Mrs Lonie is confident that adjustments could be made in such circumstances to meet a specific need. Mrs Lonie will ask parents to review the policy in the next newsletter.

7. Revisiting 'Risk' in School:

Mrs Lonie shared recent parental comments during the 'snow day' regarding slipping on the way into school and the fear of pupils being cold if they had been let out to play. Mrs Lonie explained that the pedestrian paths had been heavily gritted but that some parents and pupils had chosen to walk on the vehicular roadway, which was more slippery. The council discussed the important learning opportunities available on snow days and how these should be maximised where possible. One parent pointed out that many pupils and parents had not chosen sensible footwear on the day or dressed appropriately and that this would help children be warm and safe. Mrs Lonie also

explained how the school undertook on-going risk assessments based on the changing weather and took their responsibility to keep children safe very seriously. Mrs Lonie asked the council to share their thoughts with parents at these times, including the fact, as one member pointed out, being cold does not lead to children getting colds as this is caused by a virus. Mrs Lonie will address the issue in the January newsletter to ensure parents are clear on the school's position and their joint responsibility to keep children happy and safe.

8. A.O.B:

- i. Gareth asked if pupils could collect the plastic lids from milk bottles as a charity was able to collect these to buy life-saving machinery. Mrs Lonie agreed that this should be done.
- ii. Mrs Lonie was asked if class teachers could ensure that children were let out at 3.15pm. Mrs Lonie explained that children should be handed over from 3.15pm but that this in itself took a while so there was a window of time that was acceptable for ensuring all pupils leave with all of their belongings and with the right person. Mrs Lonie will share concerns with staff.
- iii. Rachel raised the question of whether the school should own their own minibus. Mrs Lonie explained that this had been looked into but that hiring a local minibus for sporting events was more cost effective than the running costs of owning our own. This will be reviewed each year.

Next meeting: Thursday 23rd March at 9.15am