

Parent Council

9.15am on Thursday 23rd March 2017

1. Apologies: Candi, Rachel, Katya
2. Minutes of Last Meeting/Matters Arising:
Minutes agreed and no matters arising

3. Communication - Parents Council Facebook Pages:

The pages for Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 are up and running. Mrs Lonie to check with reps for Years 4 and 6. Year R page to be set up by the end of the month. Mrs Lonie asked again for reps to check users against the school's list of parents who have signed the acceptable use agreement and let Mrs Bailey know of any discrepancies. Years 1, 3 and 5 have completed this action so far.

4. World Book Day – competition or not?:

The Council discussed whether or not World Book Day dressing up should be run as a competition. It was felt that the spirit of the day could be lost with the competition element as it was the efforts of parents which were being judged, rather than those of the pupils. Although competition has a place in primary schools, it was agreed that this should be when the children are involved rather than parents. This will be the case moving forward.

5. Parents and Friends of Broadwater Down:

Mrs Lonie took the opportunity to explain that the plan to increase parental involvement had not been forgotten but that the school had had to prioritise their actions in the spring term. Despite this, Mrs Lonie has shared parents' details with subject leaders so that they can contact them regarding help in school and Mrs Pickles will be contacting library volunteers soon to re-launch the library. Mrs Lonie reminded reps that regular volunteers have to be inducted and DBS checks organized so there is time needed from school staff before this can be set up and before it runs smoothly.

6. Summer Fair – 17th June from 12 to 2pm:

Reps have been asked to oversee the set-up, running of and tidying up of stalls. These suggested responsibilities are as follows:

Year		
R	Splat the Rat Hook the Duck	Tanya
1	Stocks and Bouncy Castle	Rachel (1 teacher on BC)
2	Coconut Shy Tin Can Alley	Dawn
3	Water into Wine	Katya
4	Craft Stall	Candi
5	Tombola – chocolates and bottles	Katya/Gareth
6	Jam Jar Tombola for kids	Michelle

Each rep is to ask parents to sign up for half hour slots, including set up and pack down (11am – 3pm inclusive) to distribute the efforts and spread the load.

7. A.O.B

- i. Having commented about the Year 1 class coming out early on occasion earlier in the year, it was commented that they are now often late. Mrs Lonie reiterated that the hand-over time starts at 3.15pm and that there is a 5 minute window which the school deems to be acceptable after this time. It then takes time for class teachers to hand over children to their designated adult, especially in larger classes and in KS1. Mrs Lonie suggested again that if a parent has a pressing commitment which means that they have to get away soon after 3.15pm, that they discuss this with the class teacher to organise handing over the pupil as a priority. Rushing at the end of the day leads to lost jumpers, letters not being given out, etc, so it is not in the interests of the children, parents or staff to do this at high speed.

- ii. The website is updated regularly with curriculum information, newsletters, learning logs, dates and photos. It was requested that all letters be uploaded (and sent by parentmail) to enable parents to access them when paper copies are lost. Mrs Lonie will remind Mrs Parker to do this moving forward.

- iii. One rep asked about the procedures for requesting parental support on school trips as some in one year group felt upset that they had not been asked. Mrs Lonie explained that sometimes this was done by asking for volunteers at the time of the trip letter going out and other times, individuals were asked to help out separately. Mrs Lonie explained that staff and regular/well-known volunteers in school were selected first and then others were selected, always with pupil safety in mind. If a parent had previously been on a trip but had not supported pupils in the way the school had asked, that they would not be asked again. The reps agreed that this should be the case and commented that the purpose of the trips were for the education and enjoyment of the children, not for the benefit of parents.

- iv. Reminders from the Year 6 rep: Leavers' hoodies, Yr 6 trip meeting, leavers' BBQ. Mrs Lonie will discuss with the class teachers and communication will be sent out to parents.

- v. Are the school coats ready? Mrs Lonie explained that these had been ready since just after the last meeting and parentmails had been sent out to let parents know. Some pupils had already purchased and are looking rather smart!!

- vi. The Year 2 rep asked about hand-in dates for the learning log outcomes as this seems earlier this term. Mrs Lonie explained how most Yr 2 pupils had given in their tasks on the last two days of last term, making it difficult for the teacher to mark and distribute points. The other year groups always give a deadline for submissions and Year 2 have now done that this term. The date may be 4 days before others (due to Mrs Williams needing time to mark them on her teaching days) but it was not felt that this should be an issue as the children have had 6 weeks to complete them.

Next Meeting: Proposed - Wednesday 24th May at 9.15am. To be moved due to school commitment.