

Alexander Hosea Primary School

Roots to grow, wings to fly

Subject: Parent Council Minutes – Term 4 2016/2017

Date of Meeting: 17th March 2017

Present: Valerie Quest – Headteacher
 Becky Woodward – Pearl & Amethyst
 Sarah Quick – Pearl & Amethyst
 Elizabeth Roper – Jet
 Joanne Walker Saunders – Diamond
 Jacqui Howes – Pearl
 Sarah Spencer – Topaz & Amethyst

Apologies: Kerry Widera – Crystal
 Tracy Brough – Emerald

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>
Minutes of Last Meeting	Antonia Clausen has now left the Parent Council as her child has moved school.	None
	JH: Questioned when Paralympian Pamela Relph was due to visit. VQ confirmed it was hoped it would be Wednesday 22 nd March 2017. Part of Ready Steady Go theme to talk about inclusion.	None
	JH queried if school sports kit were now purchased and in school. VQ advised that she collected some different samples on 16 th March 2017 as they felt the new samples were better quality and price. The sports kit will be for use by children representing the school in sports events with other schools. They will be royal blue long sleeved tops, royal blue shorts and royal blue socks. The school logo will be printed on the tops and shorts.	VQ
	No further comments. Minute agreed.	None
Matters Arising	Sports: SRS said following on from the comments about the sports kit it was felt that it was important that in external sports events it was not always the highest ability children that were picked and others were sometimes given the opportunity. VQ confirmed that they did chose children with different abilities as it was important in relation to the school value of inclusion.	None
	Home Learning – Year 3: VQ confirmed she had spoken with the teacher to ensure feedback on home learning was provided.	None

	<p>Home Learning – Year 4: JWS raised an issue on behalf of the Year 4 Class. JWS advised that it was felt by many of the parents that the level of homework expected was too complex and aimed at the parents rather than the children. Some of the items they had to do could not be completed without help from parents and the children could not do it on their own. Furthermore some children were then spending hours on a piece of homework which was then sent in for homework share and then sent home again the same day and not receiving adequate feedback and recognition. JWS advised that the homework sharing sessions were popular and valued.</p> <p>VQ suggested that perhaps some could be retained in school to go on display and she would look into this. Discussions took place between the group regarding homework and VQ explained that homework was not always about the result but more the process of learning to get to the result.</p> <p>Discussions took place and it was felt that parents need to step back slightly in respect of homework and try to embrace the mindset that we want our children to be problem solvers and think for themselves and not be afraid to take a risk and stand on the edge and not put adult perceptions and expectations on their learning. VQ also confirmed that the teachers will review homework and that this gets documented in assessments and used with planning.</p> <p>Topaz Teacher: SRS raised issue on behalf of Topaz Class. There was some concern about the lack of qualified teacher for 1.5 days per week. VQ explained that the school has found that when they employ a teacher for one day per week it has been found that the teacher doesn't seem to settle into the routine, culture and teaching ethos of the school and as such the quality of the teaching drops. VQ advised that she always wants the best deal for the children and in her experience the experienced TAs, continuing the teaching plans set by the teachers, can often be 10 times better than any supply teacher. VQ explained that TAs are highly qualified and competent and are involved in marking and feedback "guiding from the side". She explained that the teachers plan out the skills and learning required by the children and the teachers and TAs are highly skilled in then guiding the children to go into the learning environments to develop and practise those skills.</p>	<p>VQ</p> <p>None</p>
--	---	-----------------------

	<p>Forest School - Topaz: SRS expressed disappointment by a number of Topaz parents at the cessation of Forest School. VQ explained that Miss Corr was a trained Forest School Practitioner, not a teacher, and had left due to family commitments. VQ went on to explain that no other members of existing staff were fully qualified to deliver it at present “officially” however the teacher and TA are currently doing a number of outside activities to assist with learning needs. ER expressed an interest in this asking if the school would welcome a parent volunteer who was Forest School trained and VQ confirmed she would be happy to discuss.</p> <p>Yoga – Topaz Class: SRS explained that a number of the Topaz parents were a bit disappointed that Yoga had replaced Forest School and it was simply following moves from a screen. VQ advised that the Yoga had not been added to replace the Forest School per se, but it had been included because a number of Topaz Children had been identified as needing some physical development work and this was assisting with this.</p> <p>Project Work - Pearl Class: SQ raised an issue that recently a number of children from Pearl Class had come home covered in acrylic paint that did not wash out. SQ suggested that when using non-washable paint it would be appreciated if coveralls could be used and the question was raised if the school required some old shirts. SQ went on to say as part of this project work the children had also been using glue guns and craft knives and there had been some burns and cuts.</p> <p>VQ advised she would check if shirts were needed.</p> <p>VQ went on to say that it is important that children are allowed to use things like glue guns and craft knives and learning to risk assess is an important skill children need. VQ explained the same principle applied to the playpod that when it was launched it was expected there would be an increase in minor injuries as the children learn to risk assess appropriately but felt that the benefits were worthwhile as if you never give the children the experience they are never going to learn the skills.</p>	<p>ER/VQ</p> <p>None</p> <p>VQ</p>
<p>Celebrations</p>	<p>Sports Tournaments: Feedback from the recent Hockey, Netball, Swimming events was positive and children came back buzzing.</p> <p>Wheelchair Basketball: This was a very positive and valued activity.</p>	<p>None</p>

	<p>Drama Achievements: ER questioned about celebrations and use of skills children have that they learn externally. VQ explained there is a celebration assembly every week, on Monday afternoons, and children can bring in cups, certificates, medals and achievements outside of school to share and celebrate. Parents present confirmed they will send their child's swimming certificates, dance grading certificates etc. in.</p> <p>Thornbury Eisteddfod: A number of children represented AHS at the Thornbury Eisteddfod and did exceptionally well.</p>	
SATS	<p>SQ fed back that she was aware of 3 other local schools who held "Mock SATS Weeks". SQ advised that she felt it was brilliant that AHS did not do this as she felt it created unnecessary pressure on the children.</p> <p>VQ advised this would not be something the school would wish to do and explained that last year, with the changes to the curriculum, one of the reasons why the AHS children did so well was because AHS do not "teach to the test" but focus on deep learning to enable the children to really understand what they are learning and enjoy their learning.</p>	None
Health & Safety	<p>VQ advised that she and Mrs Windmill had recently completed a H&S Audit focusing on supporting children how to stay safe. Feedback was shared that there are a number of areas that parents have fed back on where the school had supported the children with this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stranger danger • Lifeskills Y6 • Internet safety • Recent sessions on body image & self-harm 	None
Bug Club	<p>Feedback was shared regarding Bug Club. Parents had mixed feedback positive and negative. VQ explained there were limited resources on Bug Club and so they do not issue hundreds of books out. Bug Club was an additional resource to hook the children into learning. Parents fed back that it can be easier to get children to read when it is on Bug Club as they are drawn to tablets and computers etc.</p>	None
School Lunches	<p>VQ confirmed that they have ceased to run the parent lunches this year. VQ explained they were always run by the catering service rather than the school as a means to try to encourage more children to take up school lunches.</p> <p>VQ advised that the Governors had asked if there would be any parents who would be prepared to trial out some school meals from an alternative provider</p>	All

	<p>based in Bradley Stoke and provide feedback on cost and quality etc. PC representatives advised they would see if any parents were interested.</p> <p>JWS advised that there is one particular day when the current menu is never touched and a lot is thrown away and yet the menu isn't adjusted. Comments were also made about there never being enough jacket potatoes and some sandwich options would also be welcomed.</p>	VQ
Walking To & From School Policy	<p>VQ advised that the Governors and Staff had reviewed the policy and a change had been agreed. The change was to be that after the Easter Holidays only YR5 & YR6 children would be allowed to walk to and from school unaccompanied.</p> <p>All other children from other year groups would be matched to a parent/carer at the school exit door before being released. As a result of this change there would no longer be a teacher on the Foundation Playground gate in the afternoon. Parents advised they had no issues with this.</p> <p>VQ advised that full details would be provided in the next Newsletter.</p>	VQ

The meeting concluded at 3.20pm.