

Subject Parent Council Minutes Term 6 2015/16

Date of Meeting 7 July 2016 at 2pm

Present Valerie Quest (Headteacher)
Tracey Brough (Topaz)
Rachel Hathaway (Emerald)
Kerry Widera (Jet)
Tracy Ryder (Amethyst)
Rebecca Woodward (Crystal & Diamond)
Juliet Jones (Amethyst)
Jacqui Howes (Amethyst & Crystal)
Antonia Clausen (Emerald & Sapphire)

Apologies Sarah Quick (Crystal & Diamond)

Agenda Item	Description	Action
3. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes from the previous meeting have been circulated and should be available on the school website.	VQ
4. Matters Arising	<p><u>Metal barrier outside the school gate:</u> This has been looked at and decided that the barrier must remain for safety reasons. It is still a bottleneck at home time and parents with pushchairs struggle to get through. It was felt this is not helped by parents standing at the top of the path, sometimes with dogs. This was a cause for concern where children who were anxious around dogs are hesitant to pass by and may well step into the road. It was re-emphasised that parents with dogs should wait on the grass area on the far side of the roundabout. It was suggested that this could be re-iterated in the individual class newsletters.</p> <p><u>Hedge around the car park:</u> Children are using this as a pathway where a gap has developed. Ms Quest has looked at this and the school should be receiving trees from the Woodland Trust, some of which could be planted here.</p> <p><u>Homework sharing:</u> A few have now taken place for the younger classes. It was noted that they felt a bit chaotic. Children were commenting on one another's work and the teachers should comment on each child's work during the session too. It was queried whether a child would be 'marked down' if they were absent through illness on the day the homework is shared. It was clarified that this would not be the case and that it was just a lovely opportunity for children to share their work with parents and other class members. Ms Quest commented that the quality of homework had massively improved due to class</p>	VQ

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	<p>sharing.</p> <p><u>Reports to parents:</u> Comments made by parents have been taken on board and as such there are lots of changes and the reports will have a new format. There will be less tick boxes and more narrative. There will be more on the child as an effective learner. SATS results will be included on a separate print out for Yrs 2 and 6. Ms Quest confirmed that the school has received the SATS results for this year and know how the school has done but does not have any national comparison as yet. It was mentioned how the children appeared to rise to the challenge of the increase in the standard expected of them this year, in particular Yr 6 and how this has had a positive effect on their confidence going forward.</p>	
<p>5. Share positive feedback about the school</p>	<p><u>Sports Day:</u> A lovely atmosphere, parents enjoyed sharing lunch with their children, good commentator and parents liked to see the older children helping out.</p> <p><u>Summer Festival by Yrs 5/6:</u> Well received and planned by the children, the sun came out!</p> <p><u>School trips:</u> Foundation parents thought the number and quality of school trips this year had been excellent.</p> <p><u>Morfa Bay:</u> Feedback was that the children were well behaved, polite and gained in confidence.</p> <p><u>School visits:</u> The 'tuba man' who was touring England on his bike with a tuba called into the school to discuss what he was doing which the children really enjoyed.</p> <p><u>District Sports:</u> The event went well.</p> <p><u>Football matches:</u> The children have played well.</p> <p><u>Tree climbing:</u> Children are pleased they are allowed to climb trees at break times!</p> <p><u>Playpod:</u> Such a great resource for imaginary play and it has been observed how it brings the different age groups together in a positive way, the older children helping out the younger ones .</p>	
<p>6. Review of 2016-17</p>		

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7. Parent Council Items	<p><u>Fencing:</u> The fencing at the bottom of the field was raised on the issue of safety. A crime prevention officer has reviewed the fence and stated it is fine. It is hard to climb over and the abduction of a child from this kind of environment, across fields has never been an issue. However extra hedging has been planted but will take a while to establish.</p> <p><u>After School Clubs:</u> Foundation parents asked why there weren't many after school clubs for this year group. Ms Quest responded saying that it was felt to be a tiring, long day for the foundation children and that there were a lot more clubs for children from Year 1.</p> <p><u>Items in book bags:</u> It was noted in one instance that items marked 'youngest and only' had not gone to the youngest child as did not apply to this child but did to the older child who did not receive it. The system in place is such that if a letter or piece of correspondence relates to the whole school this goes out once to the 'youngest or only' child to that family. If it is a class specific item it goes to the whole class. On the whole it is felt that this is an effective system but at times people putting the items in the bags may not know who the youngest siblings are.</p> <p><u>Music Lessons:</u> The point was made that there is not the chance to learn an orchestral instrument within school, enabling a child to work through the grades and whether the school would consider looking into offering this to children. Music lessons are available from year 3 onwards and children can learn drums, guitar or keyboard. Recorder club is also offered where children learn to read music.</p> <p>It was stated that there did seem to be a nationwide lack of resources in this area and that councils had stopped funding music tuition. The local music hub based in Thornbury, once run by the council and now run by parents is seen as a useful start for children looking to learn an instrument.</p> <p>The question was also asked whether there would be any music shows from existing music classes this year.</p> <p><u>Teachers on the school gate:</u> A parent raised a concern that there was not always a parent on the gate into the playground in the mornings. Ms Quest confirmed that there will always be a teacher on the gate.</p> <p><u>Village Fayre:</u> This is planned for the 12th September from 12-2.30pm. Entries can be dropped off in the morning between 9-10am at the school or the evening before. Children's entry forms are hoping to be circulated before the school holidays.</p> <p>There will be the usual separate adult and child classes,</p>	VQ

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	<p>the theme being Rio Olympics/Carnival. There will be the traditional baking, vegetable and art categories. <u>Rio Olympics Day</u> – 20th July for the children during the day. Parents will be welcome to join in at the end of the day. More details will follow.</p>	
8. Curriculum and assessment updates	<p>Learning environments within the classroom and in corridors are to be updated to be more immersive. There will be no changes to the curriculum for this September. There will be changes to assessment and Ms Quest will forward these changes when she has them.</p>	
9. Considerations for 2016-17 – Year of Sport- School Improvement Priorities	<p>Themes following the Rio Olympics could be incorporated. The Tour De England is planned to travel through Wickwar. Maybe the children could watch it go through? The children could visit the Yate Outdoor Complex and try out some new sports. The Scouts Activity Centre at Woodhouse Park offers Archery. Get some Olympians into school! The children could have T-shirts to wear when taking part in their sports saying 'Year of Sports'. Paralympics</p> <p>The school has a grant from 'The Friends' of £1,000 to put towards reading books. It has not yet been decided which books will be purchased.</p>	
10. Growth Mindset evening for parents	<p>This is to take place on the 7th November 2016 and there will be an inspirational teacher coming to speak.</p>	
11. AOB	<p>New members will need to be recruited from next years reception class to parent council.</p>	

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 13th October 2pm**