

*Subject* Parent Council Minutes Term 5 2015/16

*Date of Meeting* 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 2pm

*Present* Valerie Quest (Headteacher)  
Steve Barry (Chair of Governors)  
Tracey Brough (Topaz)  
Rebecca Woodward (Crystal & Diamond)  
Juliet Jones (Amethyst)  
Jacqui Howes (Amethyst & Crystal)  
Tracy Ryder (Amethyst)  
Sarah Howe (Crystal & Emerald)  
Antonia Clausen (Emerald & Sapphire)

*Apologies* Kerry Widera (Jet)  
Rachel Hathaway (Emerald)  
Sarah Quick (Crystal & Diamond)

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Agenda Item	Description	Action
3. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes from the previous meeting have been circulated. These are slowly making their way to the website. Mrs Packer is putting things on but there's lots to do.	
4. Matters Arising	Parent lunches – There has been lots of confusion over parent lunches and their purpose. Some parents are upset that they cannot come in and share lunchtime with their child whilst having a packed lunch. Whilst the school is understanding of the confusion surrounding this event the purpose of the parent lunch is for Integra, the school meals provider) to invite in and show parents what is on offer for their children by way of hot dinner. It is for parents to share the experience of a hot dinner in school with their child. The schools provides many times throughout the year for parents to come and share time with their children in learning journal afternoons, homework sharing, Christmas plays, coffee morning and sports day. On sports day school invite parents and younger siblings to bring a picnic and stay for lunch. Parent lunches unfortunately not run by the school and the invitation is for hot lunches only.	

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Safety of the barrier outside the juniors' gate, on the roundabout - Since mentioned it has been looked at by Ms Quest and Mr Gilbert. Dangerous how it is as right on congestion point leaving school, just at wrong height for children to walk straight into the bit that juts out. H&S governor going to look at it. A barrier needs to remain there in order to prevent children running out into the road. It is sometimes such a bottle neck there with parents waiting (some with dogs) on the corner, as well as two streams of foot traffic meeting, that some children are walking around the barrier into the road to get passed. Gap in hedge - There is now a gap in the hedge between the disabled parking space and the grass by the roundabout. Children are using it as a cut through and running across car park in order to do it. Ms Quest to speak to children about keeping safe. Mr Barry suggested it be blocked off using chicken wire in the first instance.

5.

Communication Class newsletters - These are back up and running now. They have proved valuable in the lead up to SATS. It was suggested that all children's awards could be acknowledged on the newsletter along with class photos of activities the children have been doing (it has been nice seeing what they are doing). Ms Quest to pass on to teachers although it may not be possible every time as space is limited.

Website - Mrs Packer is putting things on, it will take some time as there is lots to do. School trip photos for camp are on.

Learn pads - These are being trialled in class (years 2 and 5). This is to provide the children with the choice to use them for every day classroom learning, not just as a standalone IT lesson. Teacher can see what children are doing on them. The supplier is currently working with staff to set up a curriculum base on them. While the children are working on them it is possible for them to 'flick' their work up onto the main classroom screen for the class to view. View to have these in all classes once software is as required.

Y3/4 Homework sharing - Year 3 have not had theirs yet, we'll hear from them next time. Year 4 had a good turn out and the children had all worked hard on their pieces and were proud to show them.

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6. Parent Council Items	<p>Parent lunches and the barrier outside school already covered</p> <p>Homework Policy – There is a homework policy on the schools website, this may need updated to encompass the new homework grids used in upper school.</p> <p>School reading book – Are these aimed a bit at boys? It was felt by some reception parents that the books were aimed at boys and very repetitive. School are currently looking for a new reading scheme at the moment. They are going to use some match funding and ‘Friends’ money, but are waiting to find the right books before committing.</p> <p>Maths – How it’s done – Mrs Brooks has run sessions in the past and believe she’ll be doing so again next school year. In school there children are taught various methods and the children are then able to use the method which best suits them. Long multiplication and long division are back! Carol Vorderman has a book called ‘Maths made simple’ which is very helpful, or more things you can find demonstrations on you tube. It was fed back from parents that when the Y6 children taught at a Maths workshop this was very beneficial to both children and parents. The children’s praises were sung.</p> <p>Diamond parents were disappointed with the food at their parent lunch. There were no Jacket potatoes ready and it was thought that the portion sizes were small. Brought up that the juniors often don’t have enough time to eat or that they have run out of things. Some children were not aware that seconds are available.</p>	
7. What’s new in Education?	<p>Curriculum Evening – This was really well attended. There will be notes on this going on the website. All attendees thought it was very good. It was thought that it was very long, but that the time was needed as everything relevant. It would be nice to have these more often but would put a lot more pressure on teachers’ hours of work. It was lovely to see all the staff so involved and enthusiastic in moving AHPS forward with the new curriculum and instils confidence in parents.</p>	
8. Parent View Questionnaire Outcomes	<p>Parent View – Ofsted Questionnaire. This is online, please complete it and pass the message on to others. It is a quick and easy way to gather thoughts. 71 responses were received. Parents may like to each fill one in as they may have different views. Or one per child, as your views may be different if your children’s needs are different. Parent feedback is really useful for the teaching and</p>	

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	<p>learning committee. This may be good to do once children have settled into the school year. This year we will also trial sending one out with the school reports, we may have a greater number returned as parents need to sign and return for receipt of report. There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents recently.</p>	
<p>9. Positive feedback about the school</p>	<p>SATS – These were handled really well this year. Children are confident in handling tests without being stressed. This is a great credit to the school in the preparation that went into the lead up to SATS. Thea planned intervention in years 5 and 6 is strong, children are becoming more comfortable with what’s required and why. The school is doing well at ‘adding value’, meaning children who aren’t necessarily hitting the targets their age group ‘should’ be hitting, are making progress each year. Governor feedback regarding how well the staff and children have done through this period is amazing. There has been lots of nurturing social and emotional needs. Children throughout the school have been really respectful of the classes doing their tests and the school has maintained its calm learning environment.</p> <p>Best practise – Val has visited a number of other primary schools in the area including ‘outstanding’ rated, to gain best practise ideas. Lots AHPS are already doing, or do better. AHPS is constantly striving to improve the provision for our children. AHPS builds confidence in our children, seen in a recent visit to KLB where lots of the student guides were ex AHPS pupils.</p> <p>10. Year of Science – This has been inspiring for the children. Miss Clarke currently marking the bloodhound writing competition. Events throughout the year have been successful, plantetarium, space having the chicks to name a few. There is a governor sub group which is currently looking at science in agriculture. Being a village school in a rural community, trying to look at food production and the science and technology involved in modern day farming. Looking at farm to fork and how traditional boundaries are no longer barriers.</p>	
<p>11. Annual report to parents.</p>	<p>This is not ready yet, work in progress.</p>	
<p>12. AOB.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Date of next meeting – Thursday 7th July 2016 2pm – in the Blue room.</p>	

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