

Subject Parent Council Minutes Term 1 2015/16

Date of Meeting 25 September 2015 at 2pm

Present
 Valerie Quest (Headteacher)
 Rachel Hathaway (Emerald)
 Jacqui Howes (Crystal & Amethyst)
 Sarah Quick (Crystal & Diamond)
 Rebecca Woodward (Diamond)
 Tracy Ryder (Amethyst)
 Juliet Jones (Amethyst)

Apologies
 Gayle Holcombe (Sapphire)
 Sonia Cronin (Pearl)
 Polly & Kerry (Jet)

| Agenda Item | Description | Action |
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| 3. Minutes of last meeting | <p>Ms Quest to circulate previous minutes.</p> <p>JJ agreed to contact Sonia and Gayle to see whether they able to continue on the parent council.</p> | <p>VQ (Complete)</p> <p>JJ</p> |
| 4. Matters Arising | <p><u>Notice Boards</u>: Ms Quest reported that two notice boards are to be put to a different use – one in the reception area and one near the pedestrian gate. One will be a celebration board, celebrating pupils’ achievements. The other to show what feedback from parents has been received and what the school has put into place as a result. All agreed that this was a good idea and would help with communication. JH thought it might also be a good idea to have a suggestion box by these notice boards.</p> <p><u>Assessment letter to parents</u>: This letter went out to parents at the end of term 6 and has been well received. However the assessment procedures have changed again since the letter was sent out. Parents were notified of these new changes at the “meet the teacher” meetings, but a further communication will be required to all parents.</p> <p><u>Funky Punk music performance</u>: This performance went ahead at the end of term 6 and was a brilliant success.</p> <p><u>Lone Walking Register</u>: The register has been improved with all children on the register highlighted and a large reminder in red ink at the bottom of the page to notify parents of these children immediately if they are not in school by 9.00am.</p> | <p>VQ</p> <p>VQ</p> |

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| 5. Website Update | <p>The school's website has been updated and Mrs Johnson is being trained on how to keep the website up to date. It is anticipated that the website will go live before half term, however it may be a little while before the new website is completed. The PTA will be part of the new website. Once this is complete the school will be looking into having a facebook page and being on twitter.</p> <p>RW suggested a "big launch" of the new website - to make sure parents are aware of it and use it.</p> | |
| 6. Communication | <p>Communications from the school are working well. For parents who look at their email by phone it would help if small attachments could be put into the main body of the email rather than as an attachment.</p> <p>The newsletter works really well especially for new parents. Some parents have fed back that the headings in the newsletter make it too corporate. Whilst some parents like this structure others would like the newsletter to be less formal. Ms Quest has looked into adding photos and fancy graphics into the newsletter before, but that this has created problems in sending them out by email. The new notice board - celebrating pupils' achievements will hopefully address some of these issues as will the more dynamic new website. In addition the school are hoping to introduce class newsletters which will include photos.</p> | VQ |
| 7. Feedback from Meet the Teacher | <p>Both parents and teachers found this very useful.</p> | |
| 8. Homework | <p>The new idea of letting parents of Pearl, Diamond and Amethyst in to view homework was very well received. The children enjoyed showing their parents around and it gave the parents an idea of the high standard of work. It is hoped that this idea can be used in the other classes.</p> <p>Parents also like the staggered "due date" for homework. Some parents would like definite dates for some pieces of homework - to encourage their children not to leave everything until the last minute.</p> <p>It was suggested that those parents coming in to view homework could be given stars to place on especially good pieces of homework.</p> | |

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| 9. MacMillan | All agreed that it was a good idea to combine harvest with the Macmillan coffee morning. | |
| 10. Friends of Alexander Hosea School | The PTA are struggling for numbers and support. The next AGM is on 4 Nov. Takings for the summer fair were much lower than previous years, partly due to no entrance fee being charged. RH suggested putting up signs directing people to the produce show, especially as new parents may not realise it was there. It was also suggested that more advertising of the fair around the village may improve numbers. | |
| 11. AOB | The new signs along the fence in the drop off zone have improved the car parking around the roundabout in the mornings. | |
| | Children are now expected into school earlier ready to start lessons by 9.00am. This “staggered” start time has provided a smoother start to the school day. | |
| | The Parent Council minutes are not up to date on the website. | VQ |
| | Ms Quest said that there would be more information about the recommended reading list that came out at the end of term 6. | VQ |
| | There had been some confusion at the start of term as to when children were required to bring in their medals from the reading challenge that took place over the summer holidays. | |
| | Date of next meeting - Friday 13 November - 2.00pm in the Blue Room | |