



Alexander Hosea Primary School

Parent Council Meeting 26th September 2019

Class	Parent representative
R – Topaz	Mrs Ganesh (Lily)
Y1 - Emerald	Mrs Hall (Alana)
Y2 – Jet	Mrs Mason (Connie)
Y2 - Ruby	Mrs Hill (Evelyn)
Y3 – Crystal	Mrs Leighton (Anabel)
Y4 – Diamond	Mrs Zlobec-Short (Zac)
Y5 - Pearl	TBC
Y6 - Amethyst	TBC

Agenda

	Notes (PC = Parent Council)	Actions
1. Terms of reference	<p>Terms of Reference reviewed and changed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer 6 times a year – 4 instead. Clarified that minutes would be taken by someone at the meeting (Parent Council were happy for Mrs Williams to take minutes) and posted on website. 	Updated ToR and minutes to be posted on website and link in the newsletter
2. Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a national focus on reading and Ofsted are looking in depth at this across the country. Whilst our reading outcomes are generally strong and above national and LA, we are looking at our processes for teaching reading to see how we might improve provision further. Promoting reading at home. Talked about the importance of reading as a life skill and essential. Focus on developing children’s oracy and vocabulary. Projects lend themselves to this, but we are looking at ways to widen vocabulary. Parent suggested a reading trail around the village, with reading books in bags to find. Has seen it done elsewhere. Parent Council thought this sounded like a good idea. Parent said that they were pleased to see that Alexander Hosea is top for the Library Reading Challenge for the second year. 	Mrs Williams to let English Leader know the reading trail suggestion.
3. Year of Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s University – Mrs Barnes is going through the orders and will be distributing passports soon. Parent Council noted that there are mixed feelings about the programme as it is new to people and some parents feel they might need more information. Parent asked how they would be able to find places to visit to get the credits for passport. When the passports come home, there will be a user name and password for each child. Parents can log on and look at the destinations. Children’s University also plan to send out regular information about places to go and activities. It will be helpful that our CU link is also one of our parents. Parent raised a concern about possible financial difficulties that some families might face and whether this might stop them from being able to gain points. Mrs Williams said that there are many free activities and there will be a lot of activities in school (including visitors and trips) that can be included as credits. Parent Council felt that this would help. Mrs Williams said that activities that have been undertaken since June 2019 can be included in the passport, 	Mrs Williams to arrange for a parents’ evening about Better Behaviours Project in spring.

	<p>so Reading Challenge, summer activities etc can be included. Parent Council will let their classes know.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jigsaw PHSE scheme has been purchased for whole school. We will be asking WEF whether they would like to contribute to this. • Whole school trip to the zoo in spring (probably April 2020) – focus on endangered animals, conservation etc (slightly different for each class to link in with their curriculum. FoAHS have indicated that they might be prepared to subsidise this for parents (but not pay the full amount this year as they have committed to funding £5000 of laptops for children) – this will be discussed again at the next meeting when firm costs have been calculated. • Better Behaviours Project – along with about ¾ of South Glos schools. This will help us to refresh our processes in light of up-to-date research on best practice. We have had the same systems for a long time now and whilst some work well (eg soaring, soaring high) and we have made ‘Supersonic’ more consistent, other aspects can be less effective or inconsistent. Focusses on recognition rather than reward (letters/phonecalls/postcards home rather than stickers); calm consistent approach; adapting our behaviour policy and ladder. Mrs Arrowsmith is running the programme and providing staff training. Would parents like an information session at some point during the year? Parent Council thought that this would be a good idea. 	
4. Misc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing (Topaz) – works have been carried out in the summer to replace the fence along footpath. • Kitchen refit – in the summer, SGC refited and redecorated the kitchen – now have a dishwasher instead of hand wash steriliser. We put £1000 towards it. Catering team are finding the dishwasher very helpful. • Parking – PCSOs have agreed that they will come over at drop off or pick up time at intervals throughout the year to support sensible parking. • Recycling – Parent suggested that there should be a recycling box in the hall for yoghurt pots from school meals to be recycled. Talked about the importance of being environmentally aware to our community. • Parents’ Evening – a parent requested that these revert back to the old arrangements in the classrooms. Being in the classrooms (especially at the end of corridors) can make teachers feel isolated and uncomfortable. To support teachers, most schools (primary and secondary) now have parents’ evening in the hall, but this is more difficult for us as we share ownership and it might interrupt regular bookings for the Community Centre. This could work if we started and finished earlier on each day (eg 3:45-5:45pm). We would need to be clear of the hall before 6pm for bookings. If we were to go back to meetings in classrooms, we would ask TAs to accompany teachers. This would cost approximately £1500 and this cost would need to come from the existing budget (which is very tight) and would mean cost cutting elsewhere. In addition, we would not be able to run the Blue Room crèche as all staff would be involved in the meetings. We weighed up the options when deciding to move to paired spaces to find a cost effective way to support teachers, whilst allowing for later appointments (to 6:30pm) for working families. We also wanted to be able to provide a free crèche so that parents can drop children in to a supervised space whilst they meet with teachers. This was well-received by parents and children. Parent Council felt that they understood why a change had been decided upon and confirmed that they would all 	<p>Mrs Williams to speak to the catering team about putting out a recycling box for school meal yoghurt pots.</p> <p>Mrs Williams to suggest to KS1 teachers that they consider putting a couple of chairs in their classrooms for parents’ evening (where there are few chairs in the environment design, or they are particularly small).</p> <p>Mrs Williams to ask teachers to leave books and trays in classrooms for parents to access before the parents’ evening appointment.</p>

	<p>prefer to remain with the current model (pairs in a room – at a suitable distance from each other), rather than other options. Agreed that they would not like the hall to be used because of acoustics. Mrs Williams agreed and said that we are looking at the issue with acoustics in the hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books for parents' evening – a parent said that for one class the books were in the corridor rather than classroom and there were not chairs in the classroom for parents. Mrs Williams will take this back to teachers to leave trays/books in classroom and provide some chairs to use. Parent Council were not concerned about chairs, but acknowledged that some people might find it hard to get into and out of infant chairs as they are very low. • Start of day doors (Y3/4) – a parent asked that these could be opened at the same time as the playground gates, to prevent children standing in the rain (so they can come straight in). Mrs Williams to follow this up with Y3/4 staff. • End of day doors in KS1 – parent requested that both doors are open at the end of the school day to allow more children to come out at the same time. Caretaker has given the special key to be able to do this. Parent noted that this has now been happening and felt it was helpful. • Food for older children – a parent said that a child in another class had said that there is not enough choice food by their turn at lunch. There is an online booking system coming soon, which will help the catering team to know how much of each meal to prepare. We have addressed the jacket potato issue by taking numbers (and names) in the morning and this has helped in the interim. With the new system (from Integra Catering, who supply our catering), parents will be able to book meals in advance. Parent Council had mixed feelings about pre-ordering. They felt that it could be helpful for some children (especially where the child is a fussy eater) but not for some others. Many members of the group, like their children to choose and be influenced by others to try new foods on the day and could see that this helps their child to try something that on paper they might have thought they would not like. Parent Council asked whether parents would be able to choose whether or not they engage with the online pre-ordering based on their preferences. • Reception and Y3 parent lunches – Parent asked whether the catering team would be inviting R and Y3 parents for a lunch soon. • Parent Council minutes – Parent said that they couldn't find the minutes from last year's meetings on the website. Mrs Williams thought they had been posted on there and will find out where to let Parent Council (and parents) know. 	<p>Mrs Williams to ask Y3/4 staff to open the outside door at 8:50am (when the outside gate opens).</p> <p>Mrs Williams to ask Integra Catering Manager whether parents can choose whether to book online or at the hatch, or whether the new system will mean that all parents would need to book in advance.</p> <p>Mrs Williams will speak to Mrs Thornbury in the kitchen about potential R and Y3 parent lunch - Term 2 might be good as there is a new menu.</p> <p>Mrs Williams to find where the minutes are on the website and let Parent Council know.</p>
5. Discussion points for future meetings	<p>What would parents like to discuss in future meetings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Council Reps to gather ideas a week before the next meeting and let Mrs Williams know. • Flagged up that there are not reps for Pearl and Amethyst. Parent Council will ask around to see if someone might be interested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Date of next meeting: 26th Sept 2019; **14th Jan 2020**; 25th March 2020; 8th June 2020