

Subject Parent Council Minutes Term 4 2015/16

Date of Meeting 18 March 2016 at 2pm

Present Valerie Quest (Headteacher)
Tracey Brough (Topaz)
Sarah Quick (Crystal & Diamond)
Rebecca Woodward (Crystal & Diamond)
Juliet Jones (Amethyst)
Jacqui Howes (Amethyst & Crystal)
Antonia Clausen (Emerald & Sapphire)

Apologies Polly Jones (Jet)
Kerry Widera (Jet)
Rachel Hathaway (Emerald)
Tracy Ryder (Amethyst)
Vicky Dummer (Pearl)

It was confirmed that Gayle Holcombe has resigned from Parent Council due to other commitments.

Agenda Item	Description	Action
3. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes from the previous meeting have been circulated but it was noted that the minutes on the school website needed updating.	VQ
4. Matters Arising	<p><u>Comments on homework/posted on website:</u> Ms Quest reported that it had been fed back to teachers that some children were not getting any comments left on their homework during homework sharing afternoons in YRs 5/6. It was requested that teachers were to leave a comment on all children's work within their class. Ms Quest is to follow up that this is happening.</p> <p><u>Finishing times:</u> It was mentioned that children were slow to leave their classrooms at the end of the day and some still appeared to be learning at 3.30pm! Ms Quest has discussed this with staff and will follow this up.</p> <p><u>Hooded sweatshirts:</u> Wearing hooded sweatshirts for PE lessons was discussed with teachers and considered dangerous as the hoods could be grabbed. The point was raised whether it could be stipulated within the uniform policy that they are not suitable for PE kit.</p>	
5. Communication	<u>Class Newsletters:</u> The class newsletters appear to be well received, being very useful in giving parents an	

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insight into what their children are learning and activities they have participated in, particularly with the use of photos as well.

The regularity and consistency of the newsletters was discussed. Some parents mentioned that it was not always consistently reported which children performed their VIP and which had received teacher's certificates, particularly in the lower years.

Website: It was raised that the sickness policy did not appear to be on the website.

The behaviour policy used in classrooms by teachers was discussed and whether it should be included within the behaviour policy on the website for parents to refer to. It was felt that it would be good to refresh parent's memories as to the meanings when a child is moved from 'in flight' to 'think' or 'level 3' etc. especially for parents of new children to the school. Ms Quest advised that the policy is currently being reviewed; particularly with children moving to 'supersonic' and that this should be defined as something special to really aspire to achieve.

Tweets: It has been suggested that the school make more use of twitter as a means of communication. It was felt that twitter wasn't a common form of communication used by parents and that the school did not need to increase its number of tweets.

Facebook: For parents using Facebook, groups set up for individual classes were seen as beneficial and a positive forum for sharing information about events, dates homework etc.

Ms Quest reiterated that the school would like to be kept informed of any negative comments as these should be addressed directly to the school.

Mobile phone app: A suggestion was made that teachers could communicate with parents via an app on their phones. It was felt this would be onerous for teachers and that the current forms of communication between teacher and parent were sufficient. All teachers have email addresses and children have message books and a private note can also be sent. It was also felt that teachers are available for one to one meetings and that this was much more effective.

Text messages: The point was made as to whether text messages could be more specific as to which class the

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	<p>message relates to or whether it relates to all classes, perhaps by a heading at the start of the text.</p> <p>It was felt that generally notice for events and activities had improved, with parents being given more time to prepare and it was beneficial to have recently received the calendar dates for the remainder of the year.</p>	
<p>6. Curriculum/ assessment evening - Weds 20th April</p>	<p>The evening is planned to start around 7pm and last 1- 1½ hours. It is to give parents a bigger picture of the national expectations of their child. The School Improvements Advisor will be attending and workshops will be set up for parents to learn about developments and changes to the way their child is assessed and the changes that have been made to the curriculum. Wine and nibbles are being provided and parents are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>A letter to parents will be going out to gauge the numbers attending and there are also details on the website.</p>	
<p>7. Parent Council Items</p>	<p>Some parents have noticed that the railings on the roundabout at the top of the path were at an angle as if they had been hit. This appeared to be creating even more of a bottleneck than usual and it was asked whether they were still deemed necessary. It seems they are a historic safety requirement to prevent children running out of school into the road.</p> <p>Children have reported that the water on the tables at lunchtimes has not tasted very nice! It has also been observed that some of the younger children are queuing quite a long time for their lunch and not getting all their play time. It was a suggestion as to whether the children with packed lunches of the same year could have their lunch slightly later so that they finish at the same time as those children having school lunches.</p> <p>Again the unavailability of certain items on the lunch menu was raised. It was felt that the children are unaware they can ask for a jacket potato or a roll as the foods are not on display due to the lack of space. It was queried how this happens when lunch numbers are given to the kitchen in the morning so there should be enough. Ms Quest will raise these issues with the catering manager in her forthcoming meeting.</p> <p>Ms Quest reported that there had been positive feedback - including from local residents - regarding</p>	

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	<p>the white lines at the top of Honeybourne Way. The road was safer and visibility had improved.</p>	
	<p>Ms Quest wanted to thanked parents and children for getting involved in World Book Day. The children really enjoyed it.</p>	
<p>8. Annual report to parents.</p>	<p>Ms Quest asked for feedback from parents as to what format they preferred to see their child's report in at the end of the year. It was felt that too many tick boxes were easy to gloss over and not take in but were perhaps still felt to be an effective method for teachers to record a child's attitude to learning. Particularly in the lower school it is useful to see that a child is developing other skills such as building friendships and social skills.</p>	
	<p>For older children this was still felt to be relevant and should cover personal attributes such as politeness and getting along with their peers.</p>	
	<p>Also a paragraph from the teacher as to what type of learner the child is and also a comment from the child as to how they think they learn and what their personal objective is.</p>	
	<p>Parents prefer to read a personal paragraph about their child, detailing their achievement And perhaps including a personal objective. It was felt there should be no surprises as to how your child is progressing.</p>	
<p>AOB.</p>	<p>Ms Quest asked if anyone had any feedback on the Ignite and Inspire Maths programme. No parent at the meeting had a child who had attended. Feedback was to be requested from parents.</p>	
	<p>Date of next meeting - Friday 13th May 2016 - in the Blue room.</p>	

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