

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 16th March 2022, 2pm

In attendance:

Lynette Searle (Headteacher)
Michelle Browne (Deputy Head Teacher)
Sana Faisal
Anna Firat
Laura Morley



1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Chelsie Barnes, Faarjana Shifa, Charlie Hayden and Gemma Rouse.

2 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

LS asked how we could encourage more parents to get involved with their children's learning at home as we have a large percentage of children who are not reading at home or completing homework. It was raised that some children do not want to do any work at home and are not interested in reading. It can sometimes be a battle to get the children to do their homework. SF suggested that maybe we could offer more incentives to children so that they are more engaged in home learning. Teachers all have their own reward system and this needs to be shared with the parents in their classes so parents can make use of the knowledge. LM mentioned that, when she went on a trip to Royal Liberty school with the year 5 children, they saw a reward scheme where children could earn points and then receive a prize. This could be something we look into as an option but there are few funds available. AF raised the point that, as homework is now sent via Seesaw, this could be causing a problem for parents who do not have a printer or internet access. In her son's class the children have begun bringing home homework as a paper copy and this has encouraged many more children to complete it. All thought that this would help our parents.

With regards to reading, LM said that, whilst her son didn't want to read his school books, he was always reading his own books at home. MB suggested that this was recorded in his reading record as he is still reading every night. Teachers will inform parents that this is an option if their children are not always reading their school reading books.

MB also raised that every class was not represented in the parent council and that it would be better if we had the views of all year groups. LM suggested that maybe the name 'council' put people off as it is very formal sounding and the parents may be nervous about committing to something they think is so formal. It was suggested that we could change the name to Parent Group in the hope of encouraging more parents to join.

3 PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL GATES

We still have a huge issue with parents driving up to the school gates to drop their children off before and after school and this is incredibly dangerous for our children. It was raised that some parents can be very aggressive if they are challenged and many parents feel threatened by this.

LM has researched what we can do and she found out that parents can report the cars that are parking illegally around the school on the Havering website. If enough vehicles are reported, then they are likely to send out an enforcement officer to monitor the area. LS explained that the council took away the old cameras due to funding but that we are on the list to have a new scheme put in place in the summer term called School Streets which also makes use of cameras. This scheme is similar to the old one where parents will be fined if they drop their children off in an area that is not permitted.

4	CHARITY EVENTS
<p>LS raised the fact that several parents have mentioned that we have too many non-uniform days and charity days and that parents feel pressured to give money and buy 'special' clothes for these days. It was discussed that, when it is a colour day, the children could come in non-uniform and just wear one item of the specific colour e.g. a t-shirt or head band or just non-uniform if they wish. This would take away the pressure of having to buy something new in a particular colour. We could also make it <i>clearer</i> that it is a voluntary contribution and not stipulate the amount that they should give as it is a donation. One idea that everyone thought was good is to limit the number of charities that we support each year. Parents could be asked to vote on the 5, for example, that we will support. This will place a greater emphasis on the chosen charities, whilst still meeting the requirement of supporting charities as part of children's personal development.</p>	
5	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
<p>LM raised the fact that sometimes parents are not given enough notice about events. They are on the newsletter well in advance but there is no detail and it would be better if the details were sent out to parents in plenty of time.</p>	
6	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
<p>Wednesdays were a good day for everyone present. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th May.</p>	

ACTIONS SUMMARY	
1	Teachers to let parents know what their reward systems are in their class.
2	Inform parents that they can record any book that a child reads in their school reading record.
3	MB to send out a parent mail inviting parents to join the Parent Group so that all year groups are represented. Also change the name on the logo.
4	Inform parents about the Havering page where they can report illegal parking around the school.
5	MB to compile a list of charities we have supported and during the summer term carry out a parent vote to choose the ones that we will support in the next academic year.
6	LS to inform parents about Red Nose Day this Friday and to ensure that parents are given enough warning of upcoming events.