

Minutes

Parent Council Meeting
Monday, 19th July 2021

Present: Fran Wyborn (Reception);
Emma Salisbury (Reception);
Laura Western (Year 3);
Eleesa Weaver (Year 4);
Harriet Saunders (Year 5);
Cherry Riddlesdin (Chair; Year 6);
Jane Horton (Academy)
Rachael McKinlay (Head)

General housekeeping	Action
<p><u>Make sure all contact details are correct (see attached list)</u> Only change noted was that Mrs McKinlay's email address would be changing in September with the new Trust, so she will notify next year's Chair and Secretary of the new address in due course.</p>	
<p><u>Welcome to new Year 1 representative – Deborah Hitchen</u> Although Deborah was unable to attend this meeting, so advising the rest of the members that she had stepped forward for the Year 1 vacancy and they would no doubt meet her at the next meeting</p>	
Covid related	
<p><u>A few parents have asked if we could continue with staggered starts and ends even after things return to 'normal'</u> Eleesa Weaver noted that several parents have said that the staggered starts have been useful and helped with, eg the parking situation, as the village car park gets very full when the whole school is starting at the same time.</p> <p>Mrs McK noted that she has had an update from Sharon Jones, the PCSO. She also supports staggered starts for the same reason, and Mrs McK asking for support in this from the Parent Council. Continued staggered starts would need approval from the staff as it would affect their working hours. Asking for this issue to be brought forward at the September meeting.</p> <p>Also Mrs McK noting that we still need to be cautious re Covid.</p> <p>Jane Horton noted that the new Trust in place from September should probably add 'more parking' to its agenda as we are a growing school, and have outgrown the current parking provision.</p>	<p>Item to be carried over to the first meeting in September.</p>

<p><u>What help is being given to the children who need it both pre and post covid</u></p> <p>Laura Western raised concern about what is being done to assist the children who may be lagging academically due to all the lockdowns.</p> <p>Mrs McK noting that pre-covid, children who needed extra support would have received this through the SEN route, and general mental health support. From September 2020, the school has run a 'catch up curriculum' to get back on track and close any learning gaps. There has been additional literacy and maths teaching across the Trust.</p> <p>A baseline assessment was carried out in September and any child who flagged as a particular concern received additional support in class from teaching assistances. The school has also made use of extra learning resources, eg Read Write Inc; Fresh Start.</p> <p>From September, spelling will be a particular area for focus, and so the school has invested in a Read Write spelling scheme which will run from September 2021.</p> <p>It has been difficult to do a clear data analysis because of the lack of external assessments.</p>	
<p>General</p>	
<p><u>At the moment there is very little communication for Year 1. There aren't any updates on Facebook/the school website so it's only from asking the kids that we get any understanding of what they are doing.</u></p> <p>Mrs McK has asked the staff across the whole school to make sure that they're communicating all the great work that's going on in class. The school website and Facebook need to be used by all classes, and she hopes that we should now start to see a difference.</p>	
<p><u>Inconsistency of work being sent home</u></p> <p>Laura Western raised concerns about inconsistency of work being sent home - some children seem to get spellings every week, some only every so often.</p> <p>Mrs McK accepted that there are some inconsistencies across the school. She is due to review this with staff to agree what should be expected, and this should be consistent throughout the school</p> <p>Mrs McK noting that she does not agree with homework for the sake of it - it has to be with a purpose and to help the children. If it isn't, then the children should be allowed to go home and play and relax.</p>	

<p><u>Afterschool club being expensive and not helping working parents – any room for prices to be discounted?</u></p> <p>Laura Western raising that some parents had felt that after school club could be quite expensive if they only need to use it for 1/2 hour or so after school. Parents were aware that other schools seemed to offer discounts for shorter periods.</p> <p>Mrs McK noting that as the clubs offer activities and snacks, she needs to have one member of staff preparing and sorting the food and one supervising the activity. A child attending for a shorter period of time still requires the same number of staff, so it is difficult to offer discounts.</p> <p>However, she is hoping to be able to set up a holiday club, and needs to discuss this with the new Head of Calveley, so will discuss everything with them and see whether there is any possibility of any flexibility.</p> <p>Jane Horton noting that the cost does include daily activities and a snack, so hopes that parents will feel they do get value for money.</p>	<p>Year 3 (Laura Western)</p>
<p><u>Hot dinners</u></p> <p>Agenda point raised by Beccy Ball (Yr 5) who unfortunately wasn't able to attend the meeting, but Mrs McK believes this may be to do with some complaints the Year 5 girls had about the food being cold. Mrs McK noting that because food is currently being served in classrooms in can be a longer process getting the food delivered out and this means that sometimes the food isn't as hot as it could be.</p> <p>She was not aware of any other complaints.</p>	
<p><u>Residential – any update?</u></p> <p>Mrs McK confirming that all 'usual' residential have been provisionally booked, but we now need to wait and see how things go re Covid. But she very much hopes that all residential will be able to go ahead next year.</p>	
<p><u>Field being mowed – is it possible to notify parents in advance?</u></p> <p>Eleesa Weaver raising the issue of the field being mowed and the effect on some children's hayfever, and asking if parents could have a day or two's notice so that they can make sure children are given their hay fever medicines.</p> <p>Mrs McK agreeing, and saying that the firm that mow the field have had a tendency to just turn up without notice. She has contacted them and asked them to give her one week's notice in future, and she will then be able to communicate this to the parents in advance.</p>	

<p><u>New representative required for next year's Yr 5 (Eleesa Weaver is leaving the school)</u> Eleesa has asked if any other parents would like to step forward to replace her but hasn't yet had any volunteers. Mrs Mck will email all parents to ask again.</p>	Mrs Mck to request a volunteer to replace Eleesa Weaver for next year's Year 5 representative
<p><u>Calverley parents were allowed to attend sports day. Why was it a different decision at Acton, given that we're under the same Academy?</u> Some parents were very upset that they could not attend sports day this year, particularly given that they were aware that Calverley had allowed parents to attend.</p> <p>Mrs Mck explaining that Acton is 3 times the size of Calveley and therefore its risk assessments are very different. The difference in numbers would have meant it would have been difficult to run the day safely. Prior to our sports day there had been a meeting of Nantwich head teachers where it had been agreed that no parents would be invited as it would pose too high a risk.</p> <p>Jane Horton noting that there are essentially only four classes at Calveley and so they were able to carry out 4 separate sessions throughout the day to manage numbers safely.</p>	
<p><u>Could we have further explanation re the test scores on the reports?</u> Laura Western asking if the report scores could be explained as there were two sets of scores. Mrs Mck advising that the standardised score is the important one, and the one that is used for SATS. They had changed this scoring slightly to try to make it easier to understand and to try to show where the children are at for the age ability.</p> <p>A score of 100 is the average and where a child of their age is expected to be. Anything above that is working ahead of average, anything below is working below average. A score of 110 would be working to a high standard</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	
<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mrs Mck wanting to thank Parent Council for its support over the last 18 months. Acton has been a strong community and much of this is down to the PC members waving the flag and supporting the school. 2. Jane Horton - noting that she had not received minutes from the last meeting. Cherry Riddlesdin apologising and confirming that she had intended to own up to this in AOB - she will dig these minutes out and forward them asap. 	

<u>Handover chair/secretary responsibilities to Yr 5 (Beccy Ball/Harriet Saunders)</u> Cherry Riddlesdin asking Harriet Saunders if she and Beccy would be happy to take over the Chair and Secretary roles next year - Harriet confirming they would and she would discuss with Beccy which role they would each take.	Harriet Saunders/Beccy Ball to confirm their respective roles for next year.
<u>Next meeting date to be agreed</u> Monday, 27th September, 6.30pm at the school (all being well!)	

Email list

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