

## Parent Council Meeting Minutes 20.05.21

### **Apologies**

Apologies from Emma Mellish. This will also be Kylie Coker's last meeting as she is stepping down.

### **Updates/Minutes from last meeting**

The website is in the process of being redesigned. Carly Hay is putting the new pages together and is creating mock pages which we will be able to share with you soon. The new website will be ready to launch in September.

### **COVID/Future**

We are currently working from the latest guidance/update. We are hoping for changes post June 21st but await guidance from the DfE.

### **Learning Conferences/Reports/Book Looks**

It was raised by many parents that there has only been one opportunity to talk with teachers. As a result, we have reviewed our approach and have reconsidered - we will be offering a meeting and will send out details once this has been presented to staff. We will have to juggle the reports and conferences, but we think we have come up with an answer!

It was also asked whether books could be brought home - we need to check this in terms of Covid regulations as well as considering the impact this may have if books are not returned. ***Following the meeting, this was checked – unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, books cannot be sent home.***

At the end of the year children will bring home their English, science and connected curriculum books. We will also reinstate our weekly book looks as soon as it is possible to do so.

### **After School Provision/Breakfast Club**

Parents asked if we would be able to provide after school care. This has always been provided by the Infant School, whether through use of an external provider or by themselves. We will have to wait and see what the infants are able to set up. Once we return to normal, we run many after school clubs, using all of our available space, so it is not something we are able to provide. Please liaise with Mrs Sayer with any questions or requests.

We have continued to run our breakfast club through the pandemic for junior pupils and will open back up to infant pupils as soon as the guidance allows us to. At present the children are kept in their class bubbles.

### **Toilets**

Complaints were raised about the cleanliness of the toilets, including mess on the floor, bad smells, slippery and dangerous floors and toilets that don't always flush.

We cannot expect the same standards as at home due to the sheer number of children passing through the toilets during the day. We do have air fresheners in the toilets to improve the smell and our new cleaning company is excellent - the toilets are cleaned thoroughly at the start of the day and then a top up clean is carried out by our site staff after playtime. Children must report any cleanliness issues to the office so that we can deal with these promptly.

During the summer we hope to begin a rolling programme of modernising the toilets.

### **School Uniform Affordability Laws**

Questions were asked in particular about the high price of the school tracksuit. Mrs Woolf explained that the colour additions to make it look smarter have increased the cost. To make it cheaper, we would have to compromise on quality and it would not be as long lasting. However, school tracksuits can be plain black - it doesn't have to be the logo option.

As time goes on, more will be available through our pre-loved sale at a much cheaper price.

### **PE Kit**

We will continue with children wearing PE kit to school on the days they have PE.

### **Catch-Up/Recovery Funding**

The school website states clearly how we have made use of the catch-up funding.

Assessments were completed on the children's return from lockdown and we have then targeted those for whom we have concerns about their progress. Groups have been created using experienced, qualified teachers (not tutors or support staff).

This is how we have always worked - it is common for children to participate in groups or booster sessions. The children were already familiar with this.

Parents haven't been informed as it is a very fluid arrangement - groups are continually assessed and changes made. Some interventions are very short. If we had serious concerns, parents would have been (and have been where necessary) contacted by Sally Halls.

A letter will be sent to Year 4 parents regarding streaming in the next fortnight.

### **Club Cancellations**

The recent last minute cancellation of football club was inconvenient for working parents who were unable to collect their children at short notice. Unfortunately, due to COVID, children are unable to mix as a year group indoors - hence why we had to cancel. Usually, the children would come and play indoors or would carry out some theory in a classroom.

### **Reading Numbers on Books**

Sarah Carr explained how the numbers (ZPD) on our books work. These are based on a number of factors - including content, themes and complexity/challenge. Children are given a range from which to select their books and will read books from within this range, although at times may be allowed to read a book outside the range when monitored closely by their teacher. It is not a linear scale and does not relate to just reading age. We use our termly assessments to judge age related expectations.

All children should read at home daily - for lower school this will be aloud to an adult, in upper school this may be to themselves and then they would have a discussion about what they have read.

Sally Halls works with children who have difficulties with reading and parents are informed.

### **Girls Football Club**

Girls are welcome at all First Kick football clubs and girls are actively encouraged to attend. There will be a Year 6 football team for girls later in the year.

### **Lunchtime Supervision Indoors**

It was reported that there were a couple of incidents at lunchtime and the children have said that there was not an adult in the classroom.

This may have been the case - we have two MDAs per year group and each moves between two classes. We are adding further training to ensure vigilance. Teachers are often also in the classroom.

We are currently reviewing our lunchtime arrangements.

### **Walking Bus**

Since School Street has been introduced there have been some parking issues and the question was raised as to whether or not we could reinstate the walking bus.

We were one of the first schools to take part in the scheme several years ago and it gradually died out. This was run by parents - if any parents wish to take this up, they are more than welcome. We do take part in all 'Walk to School' weeks.

### **Outdoor Learning**

The children are given many opportunities for outdoor learning and we are mindful of the fact that we have limited outdoor resources on site. Not as many trips and visits have taken place this school year due to Covid, but there are many opportunities built in to visit the woods, the beach, etc. In Year 5 and 6, children visit Belfairs fields on a weekly basis for PE.

### **11+**

It was reported that some children have said they are feeling additional stress as the 11+ is being spoken about a lot at school. This is most likely children - bookings are now open so it becomes a hot topic at home. Teachers just check the lists to ensure we know who is taking part so that we can send home some papers.

### **Maths/Spelling Test Results**

Some children are not bringing home their weekly test results in their communication books. We will remind staff about this in our weekly briefing.

### **Maths on Showbie**

It is much appreciated that spellings are now on Showbie - could the weekly maths homework also go on there too? This should be located in the 'homework' folder but we will follow up and ensure that this is happening in all year groups.

### **Bikeability**

It was questioned as to why Bikeability was stopped and whether this could be set up again. We did run Bikeability but it had a huge impact on the curriculum and children were missing out on huge

chunks of learning that we were unable to 'catch up'. There were also safety issues with traffic on the surrounding roads. It is now possible to book the sessions outside of school, so we are asking parents to do this.

### **Preparation for Secondary School**

Some parents had expressed concern that, due to tutoring, their children were now not being sufficiently challenged. Mrs Woolf requested that these parents get directly in touch with either herself or Mr Lear if they have these concerns.

### **School Lunches**

Please get in touch with the Infants school with any complaints or queries about the school lunches.

### **Playground Drop Off**

The infants are now allowing parents on to the playground for collection/drop off - is this something that the juniors can look into?

As yet we haven't received any change to guidance, but we will of course implement this as soon as we can.

### **Virtual Baking**

Can this be recorded so that children can access later if they can't make the time of the live session?

Yes - just send in the slip and they will be given access to the Showbie page where the recordings are all saved.

### **Next Meeting**

The date for our next meeting is Thursday July 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. Hopefully this will be in person.