

St Luke's C. of E. Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of the Meeting held 12/07/19

Attending:

Dan Bates (Assistant Head Curriculum)
Amy Castle Young (Class rep Yr3 FW)
Helen Pullen (Class rep Reception)
Michelle Knapper (Class rep Yr 5)
Cecilia Fellows (Class rep Yr 1 Giraffes)

Roz Ashman (Admin Assistant)
Rochelle Westropp (Class rep Yr 3FW)
Jenny Olsson (Class rep Yr 2)
Wei Lin Goh (Class rep Yr 1 Lions)

1) WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Mr Bates welcomed the parents to the Parent Council meeting.

2) MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING 08.03.19

Compound Surface

GD arranged for an external company to do a slip resistant test and the compound surface is well within the legal limits. However, there is some capital funding available and the MUGA is due to be resurfaced in July/August 2019.

Book Changing

The format for guided reading will change in autumn 2019. This will prevent any future clashes with KS1 book changing.

The Daily Mile

This activity has now changed to skipping. Children in KS2 don't have an afternoon playtime and they now have five minutes skipping time each day in order to break up the long afternoon teaching session.

Front Garden / Scooters

Everyone is very happy with the front garden and scooter park changes. However, a parent commented that children have been rocking on the scooter rack and asked if a sign could be put up. DB asked that parents could please instruct their children not to play on the rack.

Nursery

Following feedback regarding the structure of the Nursery day, the timetable has been communicated to parents, who now feel they understand routines.

Nursery have moved to using cups instead of water bottles. The effectiveness of this move is currently under evaluation.

ISS

Juliet from ISS has given her permission for class reps to provide her email address (juliet.anderson@uk.issworld.com) to any parent with issues regarding school dinners, especially portion sizes.

Online Permission Slips for Trip

This is still under investigation. DB needs to find a way of achieving a move to online slips that is accessible for all parents.

Celebrating the School 125 years

DB looked at the school deeds and it has been discovered that the school is currently 133 years old. Therefore no further action is required.

KS2 Children with packed lunches not eating lunch with their friends who take school dinners

DB highlighted the fact that this situation only happens when the school production is taking place.

3) SPORTS DAY FEEDBACK

A parent asked if the children could be out of the sun more, with more access to water, hats and sunscreen. Another parent asked if the children could have more training for longer distance races (Year 3 & 4) and practise with the high jump. Parents all commented that the finish line was much more organised this year.

A parent was witnessed drinking alcohol at the Sports Day. Everyone felt that this was unacceptable.

DB will make it clear next year that alcohol is not permitted, as the event takes place during school hours.

4) SCHOOL FUND

Parents highlighted their confusion regarding school fund contributions. They asked if the school could make it clearer that the amount payable is voluntary and that the £250 amount on Scopy is a maximum contribution only.

DB will arrange for the letter from 19.06.18 to be updated and resent this year.

5) LATIN

DB commented that a Year 6 parent had asked why the school is teaching Latin next academic year. DB explained that two French teachers are leaving in July and it is very hard to recruit teachers with this level of skill. The school can get funding and training to teach Latin and the Chair of Governors is a Latin teacher. DB said that Latin is a fantastic grounding for languages, spelling and grammar.

The feedback from the Parent Council meeting is that this would be positive for the children. They suggested that a parent may also be able to come in and teach a Spanish or French language club.

6) MEAL PRICE INCREASE

Kingston Borough have agreed to a contractual price increase to school dinners, effective September 2019. They have agreed an 11 pence increase of which 6 pence will be absorbed by the school. Therefore the meal price from September to parents in KS2 will raise from £2.25 to £2.30. Parents were understanding about this price increase but commented that the portions are still too small and wanted less food to be wasted generally.

7) SCHOOL HOUSE NAMES

DB asked for more suggestions. The council loved the ideas of local house names and suggested more female names.

8) FEEDBACK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRONT GARDEN

Parents commented that the whole area is lighter and more practical. A request was made for more plants and a suggestion made that each class could be responsible for looking after them. Parents went on to ask that the planters in KS2 could be updated.

9) ISSUES RAISED BY CLASS REPS & PARENTS

- A parent commented that the book changing area is much improved, but asked if it is possible for the area to be better maintained. DB suggested that perhaps the parents could arrange to come in at the end of each half term on a rota to maintain the area.
- There were no snacks during the interval of the KS2 production on Wednesday. DB said that this is because the freezers are full and we were unable to provide ice pops. Plain digestive biscuits will be provided at the second performance on 12.7.19.
- A parent commented that it was very dark during a school trip to the science museum and suggested that the children could wear a high-viz jacket on the trip.
- A parent rep felt that the KS2 production was too long.
- Another parent rep asked if there could be a sign on the school door for production latecomers to say that they won't be allowed in until the interval.
- There was a general consensus that there have been too many trips at the end of term and a parent rep asked if they could be staggered throughout the term. In particular, Year 1 Wisley and Alice Holt trips were close together. Parents did however comment very positively on the quality of school trips. DB explained that these two trips ended up being close together as Thames Young Mariners is a very expensive trip to run and there was no more availability on alternative dates at Alice Holt.

Parents asked if the class teachers could give collection and pick up details for trips earlier (e.g. if parents have to drop off at a different location and time or if parents want to help and a trip is only for a few hours rather than a whole day).

- The question was raised as to whether Mr Dutton still produces 100% attendance award certificates and Mr Bates said that 100% attendees will receive a certificate at the Headteachers awards on the last day of the summer term.
- A parent was under the impression that the children may be using dirty utensils at school dinner time. DB clarified that dinner ladies are constantly watching the children and explained the process of collecting clean cutlery during the lunch service.
- There were a number of comments regarding the mixing of classes in Year 1. There has been generally positive feedback from parents but a few felt that the way the mixing has been communicated could have been better. In future, parents suggested that they should be told from the offset that bulge classes could be mixed throughout the move up the school.

A parent rep asked why the school couldn't provide class lists of the two new classes for parents and DB said that this was not possible due to GDPR. The PFA / Class Reps have lists of children and DB will check whether it is acceptable for this information to be held.

- It was felt that a few young children were very noisy during the first KS2 production. Parent reps suggested that Mr Dutton could outline in his initial speech that all children making a noise should be removed from the hall. Parents suggested that no under 5's should come to the production. This was also suggested of class assemblies.

A lot of bottles and glasses were left in the hall after the first KS2 production. A parent commented that on Friday's performance, no glasses or bottles will be allowed in the hall.

- A parent rep said that there have been issues with bad language in Year 3 and Year 5 classes. DB said that there is a school behaviour policy but that he would speak individually to this parent to resolve the issue.
- There was a feeling that football is not inclusive in Year 2 with children not allowing others to take part. DB said that he would speak to the lunchtime supervisors and the class teacher.
- There was a worry voiced about what will happen to the music facilities once Mrs Chamberlin leaves. DB assured everyone that Mrs Lowe will be taking over this role and that the music facilities available will carry on as before.
- A parent rep said that there is too much sugar at events (such as the summer fair). Another parent commented that this is an issue for the PFA to address.

- Returned Record of Achievement Feedback sheets were very low this year (only a 35% return). Parents suggested that there could be a raffle for returned forms with a prize of ringing the bell for morning school.
- Parents asked if dates and times of the Parent Council Meetings could be communicated earlier via Parentmail.