

**Sevenoaks Primary School Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 4th December 2014 at 2pm**

Present:

Jo Williams (Chair)	Ali Lennon (1C)
Julie Haslam (Secretary, Leopards)	Ali Owen (2A)
Alan Duffy (Head Teacher)	Lizzie Bourne (2B)
Jo Wildman (School Governor)	Tamara Mann (3A)
Katherine Sutcliffe (Lion Cubs)	Emma Hetherington (3C)
Lawrence Newland (Tiger Cubs & 3B)	Claire Strickland (6B)
Kate Wild (1B)	Pui Jellett (SPSA)

Apologies:

Claire Hooper (4B)	Sophie House (1A & 5A)

Welcome:

Action

The chair thanked those present for attending the parent council meeting, and approval of last minutes (16.10.14) were agreed.

Matters Arising:

Update re Access to School from Bradbourne Park Road.

Following a number of complaints raised by parents at Parent Council, the school agreed to open the gates to the reception playground at peak times allowing parents /children entering the school via Bradbourne Road alternative safe route. Positive feedback was reported at the meeting, and school will continue to monitor impact.

Parent Council Term of Reference:

Jo Wildman confirmed the 'Term of Reference' had been taken to the School Governing Board, who had approved the documentation.

Travel Plan:

Following the last meeting, Mr Duffy has been confirmed to lead on the 'Travel Plan Group'.

Term Topics:

Parent Consultation & Information on Child's Progress;

Issue raised by parents following the withdrawal of 'levels' (National Expectations of Attainment Levels' by the government, assessing child's ability against the national standards of achievement. Request for clarification from the school on a replacement system and or their plans for the future in the interim. Mr Duffy confirmed the systems of levels had been removed and currently the government offered no alternative to this scheme at this present time.

Mr Duffy reassured the committee SPS was part of the local Sevenoaks Partnership Group of approx. 30 schools. The forum comprises several good and outstanding schools. The school partnership group had recently discussed this matter and had agreed the partnership schools will continue to use the current arrangement of 'levels' as a guide in-line with 'below expected', 'at expected' & 'beyond expected' level to offer consistency until an alternative is implemented.

<p>A further parent question was raised on children's 'targets' – and why children are setting their own targets? In this particular case the parent felt their child could already complete the target set and therefore not a sufficient goal. Parent's feedback felt targets should be set solely by the teacher as a goal for a year/term and should be a challenge to encourage progression.</p> <p>Mr Duffy, discussed as 'best practice' children should be encouraged in contributing to setting their own targets as it acts as ownership of the child's own wishes on their development. However this had clearly not occurred in the example given and parents are to be encouraged to discuss targets on an individual level directly with teacher if they have concerns.</p> <p>A question was raised as to why SPS do not share or make accessible NFER scores that give some gauge on 11+ in KS2. Parent feedback had concluded it would be particularly helpful in Year 4, as parents felt unable to ask or uncomfortable to ask teachers how their child is progressing in the context of 11+ achievements without coming across as pushy.</p> <p>Mr Duffy concluded SPS have no policy on withholding any analysis or scoring regarding their child's development. Mr Duffy supports and would expect parents/carers at Parent Consultation to be discussing and sharing this information, for example if their child was at 'below expected', 'at expected' and 'beyond expected' levels as routine.</p> <p>Finally, following on from above parents felt a Family Learning Session would be helpful and in demand at the end of Year 4 (Term 5/6) for a 'Secondary School' presentation which included selective and non-selective provision. Mr Duffy agreed to arrange this session due to demand.</p>	
<p>SPSA</p>	
<p>Pui reported the SPSA and positive feedback had been received from the recent event of 'Festival of Trees', and very popular 'Bake Off' challenge which had both been a huge success and much enjoyed by all who attended. Pui thanked everybody for their support and time they had offered.</p> <p>Concern was raised by committee members that the recent 'Children in Need' event had not been acknowledged by the school and felt some parents were increasingly becoming frustrated by all recent events are fundraising solely for the 'New Build/ Development' project. Mr Duffy reassured the meeting the school still continues to support several charities via upcoming Nativity shows, and recent Remembrance where children could buy poppies was all additional to the fundraising. In additional Pui added the SPSA continue to support many school activities and club events.</p>	
<p>New School Build</p>	
<p>Mr Duffy accepts the SPS parents' concerns and frustration on lack of information presented regarding the 'New Build /Development' project. He informed the meeting that a full 'launch' will occur in the near future once final answers from the Local Authority and Department of Education have been received. Mr Duffy went on to stress the fundraising for the New Build appeal was only a short limited period and all efforts in raising the short-fall of funds is greatly appreciated.</p>	
<p>Any other Business</p>	
<p>Parent Council & SPS website; Approval from all Parent Council members for their names to added to SPS website.</p>	

<p>Travel Plan Lawrence Newland has volunteered from Parent Council to join the Travel Plan working group.</p> <p>Recording of Nativity Performances Following an enquiry to Parent Council; it was confirmed the video recording of the upcoming nativity performances will not occur due poor sales of DVD's in previous years being non-cost effective.</p>	
<p>Next Parent Council Meeting:</p>	
<p>Term 3 - Thursday 29th January 2015 at 2pm in The Villa.</p> <p>Term Topic: Communication including school newsletter, website, meet the teacher etc.</p>	