

Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting, May 16 2019

Attendees:

Mrs Malone, Head teacher CM

Miss Durkin, Assistant head JD

Sajita Nair – Lion

Katherine Sutcliffe – 1A, 4B

Fiona Wade – 1B

Katherine Clark – 2A, 4C

Emily Underhill – 3B

Anja de Caux, Chair/ 3C

Chloe Wickenden – 4A, 2C

Sue Thompson, 6A, 6B

Apologies: Fiona Dennis (Leopard), Alice Andreas (Tigers), Georgia Shawver (2C, 5C), Beth Silcox (1C), Caroline Smith (2B), Sandra Nehrebecka (3A), Deborah Neale (5A)

Matter	Detail	Action required
Update on matters from the last meeting:		
1. The new play system	CM sent out a letter to all parents about the way play and the playgrounds now work.	
2. School orchestra	<p>Emily Bowles has spoken to Alison Saunders, head of Seal St Lawrence Primary and Hannah Hukins, music teacher at St Johns, and both are happy to support our school in developing an orchestra. The question is how to get it started in a successful way.</p> <p>JD suggests aiming for a September start.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD will get a list of those children already playing instruments from the music coordinator and pass it on to EB. These children will be invited to become the core of the orchestra. • EB will liaise with musicians and Mrs Potter and work out which lunchtime would be best to offer the orchestra. • JD will arrange a classroom to host the orchestra.
3. Guidelines on topics for PC meetings	Anja sent out guidelines to all parent council members.	
4. Curriculum questionnaire	CM sent out this questionnaire and received feedback.	CM to analyse the feedback.
5. New school uniform policy	This has been finalised and sent out to all parents, with generally positive feedback.	
6. Vision for the school	There will be a meeting about this later on.	School governors will try and attend the council meeting on July 4 to discuss the overall vision for the future of the school.

Mental health		
Alice Andreas Tigers	What do they currently do on mental health?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health support is integral throughout the school. It is an intrinsic part of everything that is being done. • Specific support is available as necessary, but the ethos and culture of the school is that teachers are approachable, supportive and inclusive. • Children are ambassadors for school values. • The official values of the school are explored in detail term by term. • The curriculum is designed to help children in different ways, especially in PSHE.
	How do they assess if the buddy bench is working?	It is being used by children regularly. Kindness awards have been given for children who have come to the bench to find a playmate.
	How does the school approach bullying?	There is an official policy on the website, but there is also a strong anti-bullying ethos, with children working as ambassadors against bullying (the A-team)
	How do teachers pick up on behaviour changes/notify parents?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers get to know their children very well and should see change very quickly. • Depending on the level of concern, parents can be spoken to informally at handover times, or contacted by the school office to come in for a meeting. • Concerns can also be logged onto a central system (Mrs Malone and other senior staff have access).
	Great wellbeing exercises – other things that happen? Any helpful literature?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSHE curriculum is designed to give age-appropriate support throughout. • RelaxKids have been doing large and small group sessions throughout the school. • Yoga is part of the PE curriculum. • Sensory circuits are available where it helps • Nellie! • Mindfulness and resilience are also taught.
Fiona Wade 1B	School breaks have been reduced in many schools. Has this happened at SPS? Is it likely to happen?	No, breaks have not been reduced and definitely will not be reduced.
Anja de Caux 3C	More info about school approach to mental health and how we can support this at home	See above for in-school integral approach. The PSHE curriculum for each year is available on the website for parents to read and discuss with their child.
Chloe Wickenden 4A, 5B	How are children supported with the transition to secondary school?	They spend time with the other children in their year going to the same secondary. The seven primary schools in the Sevenoaks area also arrange meet-ups so that their children can meet those from other primaries that are going to the same secondary.

First Aid		
Alice Andreas Tigers	Busy Bees now have a defibrillator; might be worth mentioning in a newsletter	SPS also has one! It is next to the fire door by the Year 4 staircase. Another round of first-aid training will happen in the new school year.
Fiona Wade 1B	What is the school's policy on sunscreen and reminding children to put it on?	Children are encouraged to put on sunscreen, but teachers cannot apply it. Parents should apply it before school. They are also encouraged to wear their hats and drink plenty of water. 'Safe Sun' is discussed in assembly. Kat Clark (2A, 4C) is also very concerned about this issue, as it is important the children take it seriously and are able to apply the correct sunscreen and apply it often enough during the day, and will discuss practical concerns with the parent from 1B and come back to the school with specific points and proposals to support teachers and children.
Katherine Clark 2A, 4C	What's the policy on treating allergic reactions or severe asthma?	There is a spare inhaler for children who have been diagnosed with asthma and can't find their own. No medication can be given without permission or specific guidance from a medical professional. In case of medical emergency, an ambulance will be called immediately and the first aiders will act on their instructions.
Communication		
Fiona Wade 1B (last meeting)	Better communication from teachers	Our class teacher is sending out a very short summary of the week ahead via the class rep. This has solved the problems raised in the class.
Caroline Smith 2B (last meeting)	Website dates out of date. Can school communicate termly timetable?	This was a specific problem with Year 2 as excursion dates changed. This was communicated to parents. School does give an updated schedule in each newsletter.
AOB		
Alice Andreas Tigers	Could there be a voluntary contribution to help other families who can't afford extras?	The school has funding to support deprived families.
Katrine Sutcliffe 1A, 4B and Katherine Clark 2A, 4C	School lunches. Not enough dessert.	There is a meeting with Nourish on Wednesday 22 May. Parents are encouraged to attend. The dessert problem seems to be rooted in the new cookies which are very popular!
Anja de Caux 3C	New caterers not as good as old.	See above. Feedback to teachers and head has actually been very positive.

Anja de Caux 3C	Shade. Mr Duffy said would be provided. What progress?	Children are always allowed to come back inside. SPSA will be fundraising for canopies , and have two oak trees to plant.
Katherine Clark 2A, 4C (last meeting)	Has school funding been cut?	Yes. It is not affecting the children as the school is being as creative as possible with existing resources. A previous effort to start a voluntary fund didn't work but this may have been because of fundraising overload. School will try this again in the new school year. Donations would be very welcome to this fund!
Katherine Clark 2A, 4C (last meeting)	More late appointments for Parents Evenings	Unfortunately Wed evening is the only one they can offer appointments til 8pm.
Katherine Sutcliffe 1A, 4B (last meeting)	Outdoor shoes	If the children keep the shoes tidy, they stay sheltered and dry!
Katherine Sutcliffe 1A, 4B (last meeting)	Luke Temple	The school will be inviting a different author next year.
Katherine Sutcliffe 1A, 4B	Girls trousers	The grey needs to be universal as otherwise it genders the uniform again and makes it non-standard.
Katherine Sutcliffe 1A, 4B	Muddy slope	This will be astroturfed as soon as the builders sign off on the playgrounds.
All	Vote of thanks to Fi Dennis for beautiful, detailed yet simple note-taking!	