

Parent Council Minutes 30th January 2020

Attendees: Leopard-Alison Walker, Lion-Chloe Feminier, Tiger-Katherine Ratcliffe, 1A& 3A-Kirsten Tompsett, 1C-Jodi Cahill, 2A-Fiona Wade, 2B-Katherine Sutcliffe, 2C- Andrea Penman, 3B-Emma Shannon, 3C-Anna Trever, 4A&6A-, Emily Bowles, 4B-Anja de Caux, 4C-Katherine Davies, 5A-Claire Moloney, **School Finance**-Chloe Wickenden,**School Governor**-Deborah Neale, **SPSA**-Fiona Dennis, **Deputy Head**-Jane Durkin,

AGENDA ITEM	OBJECTIVE	OWNER	Comments	Action
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sajita Nair (1B) Headteacher – Cassie Malone 			
Minutes of the last meeting	Check on items from previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could each class have a page on the school website - for general messages from teacher and in particular setting homework 	JD	Homework revision is ongoing within school.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from reps: Uniform shop, Price & Buckland delivery, Playground, FundMySchool link Any Other Business 		All	See note below	
Date & time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday March 12th at 2pm 			

Feedback

Class	Name	Comments	Feedback	Action
		Uniform Shop		
1C	Jodi Cahill	Fabric swim caps	There is little demand for them	Will not be stocking these
2A	Fiona Wade	Could the uniform shop would be a good place to stock second hand Roman costumes etc. /Loaned for 50p/£1 as opposed to people buying them?	This already happens, we need to build a stock of costumes	FD to add a message on classlist about costumes – donating when finished with and also that they are available before each dress up day FD to ask the office to give her a list of dress up days.
3A	Kirsten Tompsett	PE shirts, new as well as second hand	The school is looking to update the PE shirt	When the PE shirt is updated it is likely to be stacked in the uniform shop

		Price & Buckland Delivery	Feedback	Action
Many	Many	Yes please to being able to order school uniform to school. Who will it fall upon to sort at school?	FD is happy to organise this, she will liaise with office staff and see how it works	FD to contact Price and Buckland to start the service and work out exact details about collection. Ask for a separate uniform email Once this is in place then email parents with info about collection etc
		Playground		
1A	Kirsten Tompsett	There are quite a few dangers within the Year 1 playground (eg broken playhouse and lifted tarmac slates that are easily tripped over)		
1B	Sajita Nair	Keep seeing requests for mud kitchen and ride on toys but kids mostly are using the fixed equipment.		
1C	Jodi Cahill	New paving ? Some new trees for shade in summer? Some hop-scotch markings ? Another play house ?	The materials are there to make the shade and it will be installed in the near future. Hop-scotch markings are quite expensive when done properly and the school wishes to do these things properly	
2A	Fiona Wade	Kids are not allowed to kick a ball , they end up kicking sticks and stones ?	Due to current restrictions on playground space – this will change once grass areas are accessible	
		Last year a load of new equipment was purchased, [Elder child] told me they were stopped from using the equipment and there's barely any left now, few bits in the mud somewhere or just doesn't get brought out?	There are 4 boxes of equipment that are rotated between the playgrounds	
		There isn't much for the children to play with outside and as I understand there are plans to invest in outdoor play equipment but not sure on the time scales.	These should be in place by the summer, although dates have yet to be confirmed.	
		It might be an idea to invest in some low-cost ideas? Traditional games marked out, hopscotch, snakes and ladders / Mark out Twister - nice and colourful /Is the chess set used? Buy some old railway sleepers for balancing, Old tyres to create a climbing area - settyres down the road give away tyres, Lego wall - ask parents for lego donations ? What happened to the mud kitchen idea that Mr Freeman was leading on? The children would love to muck around with old pots and pans! Think there is a mud kitchen in Reception but do think other years would benefit and wouldn't cost much.	JD explained that paint marking is not low cost. The SPSA has earmarked £17000 this year for big equipment – this is costly due to need for safe surfacing and installation. JD explained that due to the high costs of sufficiently durable and safe	

		<p>I think a couple of these would be great and am tempted to say that money raised from the May Ball will fund them!</p> 	<p>equipment, it takes a lot of fundraising to provide these things.</p>	
2B	Katherine Sutcliffe	<p>My two children are sad that they aren't allowed in the same playground at lunchtime anymore. What is the reason for this?</p>	<p>Playgrounds have been restricted due to muddy conditions – this is temporary.</p>	
3B	Emma Shannon	<p>Will the middle and top fields be available at playtimes again when the weather improves?</p>	<p>Yes. Once the mud dries up, the trees will be inspected, and the whole area opened up again.</p>	
		<p>Is there any plan to provide any more play equipment - climbing frame, swings etc?</p>	<p>Yes, see above.</p>	
		<p>There is very little shade in the playgrounds when the weather is warmer - are there any plans to do anything about this ahead of the summer?</p>	<p>SPSA have provided shade sails and benches. These will be installed this year.</p>	
4B	Anja de Caux	<p>The playground is very muddy and now they don 't change their shoes my son come home v muddy. They slide along the astroturf and my son has nasty bruises and cuts from it - there needs to be a teacher telling them off or something put in place .</p>	<p>Children are allowed to slide on the astroturf from the "piggy wall' onto the active playground, but not in the quiet playground.</p>	
5B	Chloe Wickenden	<p>Kids seem to be unhappy with the changes post christmas, the year 5s feel 'kettled' in and don't understand why the rules have changed, they were happy before. I am also hearing that some of the children like to play with the younger children and are unsure why they are no longer able to. Please can the children have some explanation, a chance to feedback their feelings and also an explanation as to how it will change as the seasons change. Lunchtime and our fabulous grounds were a huge positive for most of the children and we really need to allow the children to make the most of the space.</p>	<p>Assembly on 1st day each term addresses any changes, so children will be aware of the reasons.</p> <p>Phase 1 arrangements have not changed; changes to Phases 2&3 are due to current muddy conditions, and will be reversed as soon as the mud dries.</p>	
5C	Katherine Sutcliffe	<p>My children say that there is more equipment than there used to be but (according to them) not enough for sporty children e.g. bats for cricket as they play with a ball catcher instead (not sure what this is) and have been playing</p>	<p>Some equipment (balls etc) are restricted due to currently reduced play areas. These will be offered again</p>	

		hockey with small hoops. We may have some spare plastic cricket bats if this is something the school could use?		
		Siblings (year 2 and 6) no longer allowed to play/see each other and each other's friends at lunchtime. I didn't realise the playground arrangements were changing for lunchtime as well, thought it was just for drop off.	This is due to the current muddy conditions – separation is due to safety concerns for the smaller children in a restricted area, but they will be allowed to mix as soon as the mud dries.	
		My 2 girls are quite upset that they aren't allowed in the same playground anymore.	See above	
		Fund my school		
1B	Sajita Nair	2 parents Open to Fund My School Link. Want to know if the donors get a report on where their funds go would hesitate if there is no accountability	Yes in principle we need to find out more info and be clear to families about how the money will be spent	FD & JD to raise at SPSA Also to look into 'amazon earns'
2A	Fiona Wade	I think a fund-my-school page would be useful more so if the school could give parents an insight into how the funds will help the progress of the school/kids. Could be mixed feelings - about Is Fund my School a donations site like Go Fund Me? I don't see why not, plenty of schools in the area write to parents for a regular donation either per term or per annum. I don't think we'd want to see who has donated as you do on other donation sites! On the other hand some see it as a bit of a cheek and that the school should manage its budget so that it doesn't need to ask!		
4B	Anja de Caux	Open to this especially if it goes to targeted areas such as the playground or books. There might be a better response if there is a targeted fund raising		
5C	Katherine Sutcliffe	Not sure what this is but have heard of some schools where buying on amazon earns money from the school which sounds like an easy idea?		
		AOB		
Leopard	Alison Walker	Anti-Bullying The following school wide questions have been asked regarding raising awareness of anti-bullying. How is this addressed: within the classroom ? throughout the school ? anti-bullying week ?	It's a shame that this is an issue Anti-bullying ambassadors – are now well-being ambassadors	School to look at ways communication can be improved for FS parents about anti-bullying where relevant

			<p>It's talked about through the school in assemblies, FS assemblies more about friendship and kindness</p> <p>There does seem to be an issue with communication in the FS</p> <p>JD said that the school has achieved inclusion quality mark, which is relevant to all pupils</p> <p>Mental health day is taking place on 03.02.20 - to raise awareness of mental health</p> <p>The school now has MHFA's - mental health first aiders. There is a lovely display board in school</p> <p>It is possible that as the children in FS are not directly in the school building and the parents are not collecting them there this could be part of the problem</p> <p>FS children are also so young that anti-bullying is not always relevant to them</p>	
Lion	Chloe Feminier	Lost Items Feedback about additional support for the younger pupils in keeping on top of their possessions during PE/ Forest School days.	PE changing is an issue	JD will speak to FS to say it's an issue
1A	Kirsten Tompsett	Communication: More consistency between communications we get on a year group level from the school office and what we're told by the class teacher (eg PE kits)	Issue with timetabling in 1A as there is a tight turn around with hall timetabling	The school apologises for inconsistent communication
1C	Jodi Cahill	Uniform: children really struggle with the multiple buttons (esp in yr1) – could there be a suggestion for yr 1 to keep the polo shirts ? Another suggestion is to rid the tie for KS1. At this age, is it really necessary? Parents feel it yet another item to go missing.	Velcro ones are available from M&S	There will be no change to the children wearing shirts
		Storage: raised again as still not happy with the chaos of storage. Some parents feel this is causing anxiety in their children.	Trugs have been delivered yesterday and hopefully in place	
		Teacher Feedback: is there a possibility of having some feedback from teachers in the reading diaries/log-books when they have heard the respective child read	A reading strategy meeting has taken place with a view to increased	This will be in place after Half term

			feedback for parents in regards to children's reading	
		Hygiene: There have been a number of cases of norovirus and there is a concern as to whether the classroom surfaces etc are being adequately cleaned . Parents are adhering to the 48hr policy, but what is the school policy to deal with these outbreaks	The school did send an email and the deep clean did happen	
		Water consumption: What is the policy with drinking reminders . Multiple parents have raised concerns about water bottles coming back completely full. Some children appear anxious to ask if they can have a drink. Is there a possibility of having their water bottle available on their desks? Could there be a talk about importance in staying hydrated.	It's different in different classes They will be able to have access to them. Also the children always have the opportunity to have water at lunch times	JD to email staff about reminding ch to drink water
2A	Fiona Wade	PE - I'm a little fed up with hearing that children are not doing PE for one reason or another . One came home to tell me they didn't have time because they were discussing the new homework rules. For some children, PE is their only opportunity to get out and run around. There is not enough emphasis on PE in the school and I think there needs to be more thought to what they offer considering we have such fantastic grounds. I don't think a bit of wet weather and mud should put them off getting out there and doing sport. I frequently get 'all we did was throwing and catching', while I understand the importance of these skills there's more to PE than this.	The medium term plan that comes home does show that there should be 2 PE lessons. Unfortunately some lessons have to get dropped to make way for things like forest school, swimming tc, however they are spread across the curriculum. It is not always PE!	
3A	Kirsten Tompsett	Kent Music Would it be possible to offer additional classes with Kent Music? The waiting list is long and when I spoke to them they said they would love to offer more classes	This has been discussed at previous meetings	School does not have anymore space in the timetable for more children to do music lessons
3B	Emma Shannon	Is the school aware of the Government provision of free period products for schools. This scheme has been launched but requires the school to sign up. Here is a link to the DFE guidance - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/period-products-in-schools-and-colleges/period-product-scheme-for-schools-and-colleges-in-england		This will be passed on to the relevant person in school
5C	Katherine Sutcliffe	Young Voices - We just wanted to say what a fabulous positive experience participating in Young Voices was for the children (and for us parents watching). They loved it and gained so much confidence from it. It would be amazing if it could be every year rather than every other year as they would love to have another chance to sing at the O2. Thank you so much to Mrs Cruse for everything.		Thanks will be passed on to Mrs Cruse

		Homework/Learning Journals			
Leopard	Alison Walker	Homework marking Whilst most parents understand why there is no marking in the sharing books, there has been a request that there is some acknowledgement . Perhaps a smiley face stamp would suffice?		Up to you!!!!!! And your child, how much effort you and your family want to do! The school has to set homework but children don't have to do it. There will be a celebration of the homework at the end of term	The school will communicate about homework, as there seems to be a lot of confusion
2A	Fiona Wade	Learning Journals - I was told this week that there's a no marking in Learning Journals ? Obviously this saves on the work load but do we not think that acknowledging a child's work is important?			
4C	Katherine Davies	Confusion re the new homework. Is it a task a week? When will it be marked. Indirect feedback via parents from another year 4 class is that they can do as much as they want- every task or just one- but this is vague and the children confused and disincentivised. They don't understand how feedback is given or when to hand things in .			
5C	Katherine Sutcliffe	Issues with inconsistent communication from school office regarding the new homework policy compared to communication from the year group teachers . For example, the new approach to homework seemed clear but then the information in the home learning seemed to suggest a different approach (no mention of how many pieces to do in term, option to do more than one etc). Children and parents all very confused and we were left needing to ask for clarity from the phase leader. It's still quite unclear when their home learning will be looked at by the teacher.			
		My Maths I like the fact that there isn't a piece of project homework each week so children can take longer over it and generally have less homework. However, the change in day of maths/spellings homework is causing a problem for us as my child gets very stressed if he hasn't done his homework by the weekend. Any chance the new maths could go on earlier in the week?		There are other games you can play, the homework stays there if you haven't done it from the previous week	
		My Maths- I can see the logic in having homework relating to what they are studying in class but the My maths has been taking only 5 minutes and I do think that the mental arithmetic books were good. Are they doing anything like that in school instead of homework?		If you feel that there is an issue with the mymaths please speak to your child's class teacher	
		My maths homework is done in a couple of minutes. The new SPAG homework (no worksheet) is putting the onus on parents to be teachers			
		My maths The change in the day of homework being given mid year will make our family life more stressful as we always try to get him work done before the weekend and our whole schedule has been built around this. Request to bring homework books home/mymaths to go online earlier in the week please.			
		School dinners			

1B	Sajita Nair	Regarding lunch would prefer better quality of school meals there is very little choice if you do not like pasta.	We did not discuss school meals at this meeting as we ran out of time
2C	Andreea Penman	At lunch time, children do not have napkins to wipe their hands and mouths. Is it possible to provide any and to remind them to use them (rather than their sleeves)?	
3B	Emma Shannon	Portion sizes - I know this has come up before but quite a number of parents commented that the portion sizes are too small (one example was two fish fingers are not enough for an 8 year old). I did relay that the kids are allowed to go back for seconds but there was quite strong feeling among the parents that it shouldn't be the children's responsibility to go back and ask for more to ensure they have sufficient to eat each day. Additionally, the kids - particularly in the lower years - feel too shy to ask for more and/or are reluctant to do so as they don't want to be left in the dining hall on their own when their classmates have left to go outside. Lots of comments too that that jacket potatoes are very small .	