

# Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Time: 9.00am

Jemma welcomed everyone and gave a warm welcome to the new families attending for the first time. She outlined the purpose of the Parent Council – a place for all families and carers to discuss matters which affect a large proportion of the school or year group. She discussed how the messaging about the PC might need some thought so that more families can engage. It was suggested to keep a similar agenda each time for persistent issues so parents and carers know what to expect at meetings.

## 1- Matters Arising

### 1.1 Website-

- Mr McGrath has prioritised office staff covering the website and calendar as there have been inconsistencies this term since the office roles have changed. More staff have been employed as the office staff are incredibly busy. Carolina has done an audit of the website including calendar dates and will be in charge of making sure all things dates related are accurate and consistent across the website and newsletters. It was noted that the calendar within MCAS is incorrect, it is not synced with the website calendar.

### 1.2 Class level concerns -

- These should go to the teachers first then escalated to senior staff / head if necessary- Mr Middleburg – Ms Williams – Mr McGrath- Ms Reid. The process should be - if you don't see the teacher at drop off / pick up – email office to arrange a conversation with teacher (or whoever is needed) via meeting or phone call. If you email [swoffice@newwavefederation.co.uk](mailto:swoffice@newwavefederation.co.uk) messages to the relevant teacher can be passed on.

### 1.3 Litter & graffiti -

- Somerford Grove is a particular hotspot at the moment, and has been all term. Shacklewell Row is also problematic. The rubbish left out on the street gets collected by Hackney council around 10am, but before then bags of rubbish are regularly open and waste is strewn across the pavements. Families are encouraged to use the [Hackney "Report a Problem" website / app](#) to report this.
- Jemma has contacted the local councillors Richard Lufkin and Ifraah Samatar to try and help support the clear up. It was suggested to invite the councillors to come for a walk around the school streets, perhaps with pupils from Shacklewell, it was also suggested to make this a school project and this will put pressure on the council to action. The council may have money to spend on highways – suggest to councillors that landscaping etc could improve the locality. It was mentioned that idling cars at the alleyway on Somerford Grove is also an increasing problem – would it be possible to inform drivers to switch off their engines.

### 1.4 Name of Parent Council -

- The suggested rebrand and name is "Families Forum". Reminder of what the purpose is: Everyone has a voice in the school – perhaps a name change might help to sound inclusive and welcoming. Jemma is worried the messaging is still not getting to all the corners of the school and that the Parent Council is for the whole community to raise issues, positives and negatives – issues affecting the whole school or year group. Messaging needs to be conveyed more strongly so parents and carers know what it is. Suggested branding for Whatsapp messaging so the messages stand out in the year groups chats.

## 2- Updates

### 2.1 Foci for this year:

- Safeguarding – incl. nurture and children being able to speak up;
- Quality of education – ensure teaching and learning is exemplary;
- Personal development – not just good at learning but active citizens into the future;
- Leadership & management – how senior staff work together and middle leaders are developed;
- Wellbeing – ensuring that staff feel supported here;
- Curriculum – ensuring all subjects are given the time and focus that they deserve.

### 2.2 Assessments:

- Reception to Y6 assessments for the term have been completed and scores are a snapshot of where they are at this point in the year;

- Y6 data last year was in line with national but is usually above average. Several factors played a part in this including the boy:girl ratio in the year group; the effect of Covid interrupted schooling; a high number of kids accessing local services;
- School will work to refine the reporting information on the end of Spring term slips as the feedback was that the scores were more useful than the standardised information

### **2.3 MCAS**

- Desktop version has been inconsistent with the app at times but the school is trying to fix this;
- MCAS app is organised through Hackney so any problem with the app, school needs to go to Hackney then they go to MCAS. School are still running drop-in sessions for anyone needing further advice about the app.
- Notifications – if not working try reinstalling the app;
- Clubs – problem with paying for these on the app with vouchers. Call the office if there is any problem with this;
- Ourspace – booking /cancelling within 24 hours – need to call the office to make these changes;
- Can school change MCAS so parents can move money around between bundle / breakfast / after school?

### **2.4 Festive Events**

- As discussed previously, to facilitate more families to be able to attend the Christmas event, the space constraints on the hall meant that this year instead of a full school show – each year group invited families and carers to a concert with singing followed by a crafting session for children and families to enjoy together. This is a trial intended to be more accessible for more families.

### **2.5 Here to be Heard Updates**

- Loneliness group – dropping off secret packages for teachers to say you are appreciated;
- Friendship stop in the playground;
- Planting saplings in KS2 garden;
- Food poverty group supported the food bank drive at the end of the term;
- The feedback is generally very positive and so the initiative will continue for whole year;
- It was mentioned that the current displays in the top hall look stunning – and big thanks to Mrs. Hanssen for all her work.

### **2.6 Trips**

- London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican trip to hear Holst's Planets was very positive experience as were the trips to the British Library;
- The pantomime has garnered very positive feedback from families and children;
- It was suggested that Year 6 end of year (summer term) activities are organised as early as possible;
- A huge thanks to the amazing fundraising which has already taken place for this year's PGL (families as well as St. Paul's West Hackney church), the school is hopeful that as a result more families can attend. Suggested for Y5 families to be aware of this and start fundraising early;
- Alternative residential camps have been investigated, looking at cheaper venues and different locations, but the PGL experience is far superior than other alternatives.

### **2.7 Health Data**

- The school has received its health data for the children starting in Reception and leaving in year 6 and whilst it is inline with the local averages, it is still above national averages in terms of overweight and obese children leaving school. The school will be raising awareness of this from spring 2 and is looking for any support or guidance from the parent community.

### **2.8 Shacklewell Families:**

- So far this academic year we have raised: £10,230
- Going forwards Shacklewell Families still need more help from our community – Holly has an idea to have an SF rep in every year group to help with planning / behind the scenes activities, she will be in touch to promote her idea and get more people involved.
- It was suggested that it would be useful to label how much money pays for what eg. £x amount pays for panto place or how much for help on PGL trip etc so people can understand how much money is needed for what activity.
- Mr McGrath praised the amazing efforts of Shacklewell Families and thanked them for all their hard work and valuable money raising contributions.

### **2.9 Road Safety**

- Cyclists ignoring the signalling is causing a problem at the crossing on A10 – Jemma has emailed councillors Richard Lufkin and Ifraah Samatar about this crossing – and will also contact TFL and the police. We talked again about a lollipop person at this crossing – and need to investigate further.

### **3. AOB:**

- Bullying – how children are taught to look out for each other and who to speak to if something happens. Put on agenda for proper discussion next time.
- Please can the who's who notice be updated and put back on the notice board so people can learn the names of all the wonderful auxiliary staff – office, chef, caretakers.