

# Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Time: 9.00am

## 1-Headteacher Update

- Busy week: KS2 national tests have been this week. Good feedback from this week for SATS – kids generally happy and engaged. Some comments that the focus has been on achievement – some children struggled with this. The message should be 100% effort rather than 100% performance.
- End of year assessments coming up. In year assessments too - feeding into end of term parent reports.

### 1.1: Identity Project:

- Last half term art pieces on display in hall.
- Fridays at the moment – children are learning different skills / crafts / activities allowing them to express themselves – eg. sign language, singing, French, poetry etc. This will be put into a showcase production in July for parents to see (separate KS1 & KS2 performances).
- There will be plenty of space for all families to attend (max. 2 spaces per family). KS1 performance will be half an hour; KS2 35-40 mins.
- Identity presentation on display at the front – can still share photos etc with school if you want to contribute.

### 1.2: Food:

- Menu has changed this term. Lots of feedback – mostly positive.
- School has thought very carefully about menu. Filmed chef Aziz and chef Luis making chef's specials and shown in assembly. Tasting sessions in playground so kids know what is coming at lunchtime later in the week. The intention being that familiarity then encourages kids to try the new recipes and hopefully enjoy them.
- Menu on display in classrooms.
- Jacket potato day wasn't a success. Instead – pasta day. Jacket potatoes still on offer as alternative as before.
- Survey for kids to complete will begin in summer 2.
- Any families who are particularly unhappy with new menu should contact the headteacher directly.

### Suggestion

- To tell kids the food is "spiced" rather than "spicy" as they may perceive spicy to mean hot and therefore might not eat it.

### 1.3: Toilets:

- Some issues with some kids trying to spook each other with the legend of "Bloody Mary" – this has been pinpointed to the year group and individuals and is being dealt with.
- General cleanliness: school has thorough routines, check sheets, replenishing paper etc. Any issues are reported straightaway to premises officers and dealt with.
- Reassessing the playground set up – so the adult on duty in the downstairs corridor is also checking in on toilets.

### 1.4: Technology:

- The Smartphone Free Childhood movement was mentioned, with queries from parents around SW policy on phones and internet use:
- The headteacher explained that SW is committed to using technology, and has been for a number of years. Kids will be in an increasingly digital world as they grow up so school wants to empower them to navigate the risks etc, as well as academic tools and useful resources supporting them academically.
- This also helps families who may not have the technology at home - to help with levelling up and support positive outcomes. The headteacher stressed that SW is not an Apple training camp and has a range of technology available for the children
- Question re. use of ipads / internet in class – what are they used for / what are objectives?  
KS1 iPads 5 per class. KS2 every child has one. The headteacher explained in KS2 devices are present all day in classrooms. eg. maths might be moving materials around on screen / writing might synthesise info given to the kids – using Wikipedia / BBC Kids / national geographic etc – copy info, paste into app to

produce a piece of output, or photographing areas of the playground to put into a presentation etc. Children also use textbooks depending on the topic.

- Kids should not be looking at football or Airdropping to each other, or changing background on ipads. How do teachers restrict kids to use ipads in a way that is appropriate / intended? Can't switch airdrop off but teachers can police it – so this is monitored.
- Parent feedback generally is that the balance of use of tech at SW is good.
- What are controls on content at school? Filters are very strong and use inbuilt Google safety controls. Also new monitoring system by IT support group reporting on any inappropriate searches etc – to pinpoint closely where / when this occurs.
- SW recently retendered to new providers – this will add another layer of security on iPads so teachers can ensure kids don't navigate to other sites etc. Also sanctions on kids if they are moving away from what teachers have asked them to do.
- Tailor next term around these queries. What is the objective of ipad use in school?
- The headteacher confirmed that the school does educate kids about appropriate and safe internet use – also what to do if they see something inappropriate etc, who to tell.
- It was also confirmed that the school no longer sends iPads home with any of the year groups.
- The headteacher also confirmed that smartwatches were not permitted at school
- School mobile phone policy – confirmed Y6 are allowed to bring phones in but must be delivered to office at start of the school day.

Suggestions:

- *Has school considered an intranet instead of internet – so can only search what's on the school database / within school's servers*
- *Parent suggestion: Qustodio – app that manages what kids are doing on ipad.*
- *Parent suggestion: Google Family Links app – filters / time limits*

1.5: Wraparound Care and After School Clubs

- Ourspace: Should now be booked on MCAS. Parents need to book 48 hours in advance on the app – but can call office to book a place if less time than 48 hours.
- Price rise for Ourspace – the headteacher confirmed there are 8 staff for Ourspace – these costs needed to be covered as well as food provided, resources etc. It is very likely that there will be no further price increase in September.

Suggestions:

- Can there be a lower pricing category for 3:30-4:45pm? The headteacher confirmed this is too difficult to manage with staff numbers etc.

1.6: My Child At School App:

- Transferring money left in for lunches to pay for clubs – this is easily done and Hannah in the office has been going through this with all parents.
- Hannah will be running parent drop in sessions next term to help with using the app. School will communicate dates.

1.7: Local trips and Visits:

- Y6 from next Thursday onwards – visits to local parks, museums etc but it was acknowledged that good behaviour equals success on these trips (so attendance is not guaranteed).
- A parent noted that the kids feel like they have been only doing maths and English in the run up to SATS – can the trips and activities be broader over next half term? Yes - curriculum will be Colonialism / British Empire and the trips will reflect this.
- RE trips to the local church: School has engaged with the church to discuss concerns around children being encouraged to join the church. The children are being exposed to different beliefs / visits to places of worship of different faiths. Teachers are also briefed to ensure that kids are aware that this is one way of expressing faith but not the only way.

## **2-Chair Update**

### **2.1: Parent Council Engagement:**

- Discussion re. parents evening engagement – possibility of PC year reps being there for all of parents evening with leaflets to ensure all parents are aware of the Parent Council and to give them an opportunity to engage.
- Summer Fair - PC to have a table near the entrance.
- PC rep to be at the Gruffalo's Picnic to inform new families about PC and encourage engagement.

### **2.2: WhatsApp Group Guidelines:**

- Discussion around whether guidelines should be issued around code of conduct and appropriate content on year group whatsapp groups (these are not run by school). Lots of other schools have guidelines. The Headteacher is happy for us to write something to put on the website. Prepare this in time for Gruffalo's picnic.

## **3-A.OB**

### **3.1: Class Photos:**

- Will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

### **3.2: RSE:**

- Parents will be invited into school in the first week after half term to hear what the year groups will be learning.
- RSE curriculum will continue to be the same this year.

### **3.3: School Calendar:**

- School to ensure that the key dates are present

### **3.4: School Calendar:**

- Please can school ensure that all correspondence is on MCAS, whether also sent out by text, paper letter etc. The school will refrain from sending emails.

### **3.5: Shacklewell Families**

- They really need more support on the committee. Gilly, Su & Elina are struggling and need more people to commit to helping. They need 2 more co-chairs on the committee (so 5 in total). Also need help with specific jobs. Shout out for Dads to join!

### **3.6: Residential Trip:**

- Osmington Bay is no longer an option as the cost has increased significantly. School has looked at other locations and PGL centres. Chose Ashford in Kent – but there had been an unpleasant incident there. School has asked for assurance from the organisers about this incident but they are taking time to respond so this is not looking very promising. School is looking at options – also looking at the possibility of current Y4 possibly going away for 1-2 nights during Y5, as preparation for the Y6 trip.

### **Suggestions:**

- Parent suggestion: The Garden Classroom runs residential trips.

## **Next Meeting**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July @ 09.00am