

Minutes for Parent Council meeting held on 11th October 2023-10-15

Parent representatives present: Ellie, Lou, Itvinder, Helen, Christiane, Aurelie

Apologies:

Chair: James (HT)

Minutes: Hellen (TA)

1. Welcome

Introductions by all. JP thanked everyone for attending.

2. Parent Council - Why are we here?

JP explained what the Parent Council was and how the Council can help the with discussion and ideas. All feedback welcomed and information could be communicated via the newsletter.

3. Trips/visits – affordability v educational experience

JP asked the Council what they thought of trips in terms of the range of visits and costs involved?

Aurelie – Trips are very good and appropriate.

JP discussed the previous trip to France with year 6 which links to their WWII topic but this could sadly no longer take place because Madam Kelly (French teacher who organised this) retired.

Ellie – trips in year 6 might be a worry because of the cost of the residential, and asked could we use fundraising money to support such trips?

JP – takes this on board and explained that pupil premium children were subsidised.

Lou – have seen other schools' trips are cheaper.

Ellie/Helen – Are there any 'in-between' cost trips that we could do?

JP explained that if parents complained about trips/costs they wouldn't happen but that parents could over-donate to help fund others like LVC do.

Helen – How many trips are there per year group?

JP – 2 or 3 with a year 4 sleepover and years 5 and 6 residential. There is also a whole school trip to the pantomime.

4. Fundraising

Ellie – Could the children get involved with fundraising, running the creperie?

JP – yes. Will have a think about what events.

Christiane – we could organise a fish and chips evening for parents.

JP – have emailed Kate Darke and Jamie to ask about more fundraising.

Ellie – needs to be cheap and easy. Christmas fair?
JP – yes, absolutely.

Helen – could we look at PTFA?

Ellie – £3,000 needs to be the amount that will be raised, but being a registered charity does open doors to grant funding.

Helen – Usborne books? School gets 60% with £600 worth of orders.

Christiane – happy to be an Usborne rep.

5. What can we do to improve pupil learning?

Christiane – Likes Mr Barnes' idea to focus on child wellbeing.

JP – this was a pilot in Mr Barnes' class but staff members are attending a course for this.

Ellie – Infants School do peer massage. This works well if done after break for example to help settle the child and would be great for year 3.

JP – will talk to Kelly Harries at the Infants and also our year 3 team.

Aurelie – would like less emphasis on writing techniques which might hold children back and focus more on the content of writing.

JP – writing is fundamental but we do help children who struggle e.g they have their own iPad to use - Most of the Council agreed how important writing is.

Ellie – could we have more Science days?

JP – yes, talk to Mr Wilson

6. Home learning – Mathletics

JP explained that our results for English/writing are strong but Maths not so - children all using new online Maths software called Mathletics.

JP – what do you think about the new home learning?

Aurelie – having no home learning doesn't set them up for life at Secondary School.

Christiane – Likes the options menu for red book home learning.

JP – we will continue to keep it as is for this term at least.

Ellie – likes reading journal, Mathletics and the SPAG booklet because it does the job but is quick.

Aurelie – didn't like the red book system

JP – have taken it away. Home learning will always be controversial but trying to find a happy medium.

7. AOB

Itty – teacher feedback, how do we speak to them?

JP – teachers could be more visible at the end of the day, specifically year 3 to wean off Infants

Aurelie – who is teaching class 2?

JP explained the situation with Mrs Sanham being signed off work and now on maternity leave, and new teacher for her cover let us down last minute. Class will be covered by a HLTA (higher level TA) and Mrs Webb.

Ellie – flu vaccinations? Need the link.

JP to ask Mrs Benjamin

Ellie – toilet cleanliness.

Christiane – children could learn about toilet etiquette or make and laminate posters to display about hygiene.

JP – will talk about this to children in assembly.

8. Meeting dates

Next Parent Council Meeting – Weds 28th February 5.30pm