

## **Parent Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Present:** James Puxley (JP), Hellen Kaminski (HK), Ellie Wolmark (EW),  
Josie Symons (JS), Victoria Hurst (VH), Jessica Sulman (JSu)

**Apologies:** Helen Brookes, Christiane Buentgen

### **1. Welcome**

Everyone introduced themselves

### **2. Parent Council**

JP explained why we have these meetings; it gives parents a voice

### **3. New headteacher recruitment**

JP told the council that interviews for the new headteacher would be on October 16th and that Gill Powell, our Chair of Governors, would be on the panel.

JS – When will we find out? JP - We don't know yet.

### **4. Ofsted**

JP explained that we initially received the call on July 9th but since we were having building work done, an Ofsted visit was put on hold. We are currently waiting for another call.

JP explained the 2 types of Ofsted inspection: type 8 and 5, 8 being a 'lighter touch' inspection and 5 being more thorough. Since Ofsted haven't received any complaints about LHJS, we will have the lighter section 8 inspection and it is likely that they will look at our SEND provisions.

JP - We have a strong teaching team with very low staff turnover. We have 2 very strong new teachers and our maths and English are looking good.

## **5. Improving pupil learning/experience at LHJS**

EW – Can children write with their own pens instead of the school awarding them?

JP – The pen system works because we have a better quality of work if everyone is using the same, it is also an incentive for children to try harder to ‘earn’ the next pen.

VH – Will SEND children get them and could you explain the system to parents?

JP – Absolutely, SEND children often don't have bad handwriting and they receive the same award as everyone else. I will make sure the pen system is explained on the website.

JS – Can we talk about stem payment/fundraising/PTFA

EW – Particularly PTFA support, can we say the PTFA support the pantomime for example? (money out of PTFAs pot)

JP – Yes. We are financially better off this year.

All agreed they want the parent working party to keep going.

JS – is the year 5 residential going ahead as heard rumours it's not.

JP – Will look into this and confirm. Talked about the previously very successful day trip to France but haven't been able to do that since our French teacher left.

VH – The clubs seem mostly sport based, could we do more?

JP – We have cookery club, have had crochet club, bible club, Harry Potter club, photography club.

VH – The Infants School have a craft club which would be nice.

## **6. Home learning**

JS – Feedback from year 5 parents; is there anything more than maths as extra work?

JS & EW – What we do is enough especially with SATs books which is great. Don't need extra.

All then agreed that home learning is much better now.

JP – There is no slippage in terms of outcomes so will leave it this way.

JSu – 1 parent said that there is not enough parent/teacher feedback/talk.

All agreed that teachers are very approachable and are seen in the playground at the end of the day. They can also be emailed at any time with questions/concerns and meetings can be arranged

## **7. AOB**

EW – Not enough TA support in year 6.

JP gave statistics on the number of children with need and 1:1 support in each year group and year 6 has the least need.

All agreed and understood that there is more need elsewhere.

Toilets: JP – Whole school much better now since the arrival of new cleaners.

EW – Will spot check on way out.... no smell, much cleaner!

School lunches: EW – portion size small, quality bad. Innovate not up to scratch and LVC food much better but use the same company.

JP – Agreed saying they are very budget driven and the quality is not there.

Football: JP read an email from a parent complaining that football is only twice a week.

EW – Twice a week is better as it saves arguments on the pitch.

HK – explained that now all staff are not being taken up supervising football we have been able to open lots of other areas and have a member of staff supervising. Every lunch time we have the trampoline, climbing frame, forest school area, parachute and a 1st aider with kit on hand every day.

Communication: VH – Parents are used to the online system used by the Infants on a daily basis and there is only a newsletter at LHJS. Also the invitation to sign up

to Eco council wasn't communicated to parents therefore some children missed out on the chance to apply.

JS – Parents need a summary of the school councils available as are not aware of the difference between them. (E.g. JLT).

Behaviour:

The matter of the inappropriate and at times violent behaviour of a pupil was discussed.

JP thanked the parents who had informed him of the situation; acknowledged their concerns but also maintained that there had been swift investigation, follow-up and sanctions applied on the school's behalf. The sanctions were all commensurate to the child's actions and had largely been successful in dealing with child's unwanted behaviour.

The school does a great deal in lessons, assemblies and small group work in terms of teaching about the need for everyone to respect protected characteristics.

All pupils' behaviour is monitored and for some children the level of scrutiny is higher. Suitability for pupils to attend a school trip or residential will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

## **8. Meeting dates**

TBC