



**Minutes of the Parent Council meeting**  
**held at the school on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 9:00am**

**Present**

Jamie Pardon	Head Teacher
Adele Rees	Inclusion Leader
Lara Bruce	School Business Manager
Jane Francis	Parent
Lisa Hurst	Parent

**1. Welcome and overview for meeting**

JP welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. JP advised there was no agenda for the meeting other than discussing ways of improving communication to parents about the curriculum.

**2. Curriculum communication**

JP advised parents that the school had worked hard at improving general communication through the new website, the new Facebook page and all parentmails being issued on a Friday. LH welcomed the changes to the website which had more information and was easier to navigate. JP advised there had to be a balance between the website being "Ofsted compliant" and being a useful source of information for parents.

JF asked if the class pages could have a link to the weekly homework and links to useful curriculum websites or apps used by the children in school. JP advised that the class pages would be developed over the coming year and these suggestions would be considered. JP added that the website would also be developed to share the importance of the eSafety message with parents.

LH advised that terminology, particularly for literacy and grammar, was an area that parents would welcome support with. JP reported that this term Miss Farnworth will deliver a session on phonics teaching. In addition, JP noted that Mrs McCulloch had compiled a set of progression sentences which would be useful to share with parents.

JP reminded parents that last year the school held a Maths Morning which comprised a presentation by Mr Tyman, followed by the opportunity for parents to go into their child's class to see maths teaching in practice. JF welcomed the opportunity to see how methods of teaching have changed, whilst LH noted how helpful it was to see the teaching being delivered in more than one year group. JP advised that a literacy morning this year would help parents understand the importance of comprehension alongside reading.

LH noted that at a recent parent meeting, Accelerated Reader was discussed and how parents could access and use this resource at home. JP reported that Mrs McCulloch was in the process of setting up passwords for all parents. JF explained that she uses the resource already and benefits from seeing what books her child

is reading in school and being able to see what level their reading books at home fall into.

JP advised parents that governors had approved funds to improve the use of non-fiction books within Accelerated Reader. This was important as non-fiction text is often what children are assessed on in SATS.

### **3. AOB**

JP invited parents to raise other issues.

#### **Pupil Voice**

LH asked what opportunities children had to share in pupil voice who were not on the School Council. JP advised that pupil voice was being developed as follows:

- Children are invited to share their views with their School Council representative in class
- Eco-Council was being widened to include teams responsible for different areas around school
- Collective worship ambassador roles were being set up to include responsibilities ranging from writing prayers to leading an assembly
- During lesson observations JP spends time listening to children sharing their learning

JP reminded parents that pupil voice extended to “Worry Monsters” which are in school for children to raise any concerns they have by writing their worry on a piece of paper and putting it in the monster – this can be as simple as putting their name on a piece of paper and then the child knows an adult will come to talk to them. JP noted that the pupil questionnaire at the end of the summer term showed that children knew how the worry monsters could help them.

LH advised that some children may feel self-conscious being seen putting a worry in the monster. JP noted that the monsters are in discreet locations in each class and will ensure that resources for writing worries on are close by. JP agreed to remind children about the monsters in assembly that day.

#### **Homework Club**

JF noted this club was by invitation only, and wondered whether a club could be set up that all children were able to attend (or perhaps just for year 5 and 6 children). JP advised that staffing prevented this – all teachers run an after school club. JP advised parents that teachers will invite a child to the club if they are struggling with completing their homework each week. JP advised the Study Zone was also an opportunity for children to complete their homework.

LH asked why children had to do homework at such a young age. JP advised that weekly homework is part of the Ofsted framework and helps consolidate learning that takes place in class. JP acknowledged that some children may benefit more from homework than others, but it is essential for schools to be recognised as good or outstanding by Ofsted.

#### **After School Clubs**

JF noted the current range of clubs were sports/arts based and welcomed the opportunity of some academic clubs, such as the maths and science ones that had been previously offered. JP advised these clubs are often more expensive, but

agreed to get some quotes together and gauge parent interest with a view to offering one in the Spring term.

JF reported that some schools had started running Lego clubs, often linking them to the curriculum. JP advised the starter kits can be expensive, and if this was offered it would require some fundraising. If the club went ahead, JP suggested a parent might like to run it as all teachers currently run clubs.

**4. Date and time of next meeting**

LH advised that a morning meeting can be difficult for some parents. JP welcomed the offer from LH to carry out some parent consultation before the next meeting in order to get feedback on agenda items from as many parents as possible.

It was agreed to hold the meeting at 2:30pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019. This was just before the Friends Cake Sale.