

3 Parent Council– November 2014

Actions from previous minutes

Dog Mess Problem

Posters made by the children are on the school hedges. Mrs Sankey reported that following on from a suggestion by parents, an article regarding this problem had been published in the local news bulletin. Parents reported that the problem still remains and suggested contacting the borough requesting that a bin be installed within the vicinity of the school. However Mrs Sankey advised that the school had already approached the borough regarding this without success. It was felt that the school had exhausted all avenues to try to eradicate this problem and parents agreed.

Reports – ongoing

Workshop slides - added to website

Housepoints – this has been actioned.

Reading with older children – Mrs Wyman discussed with staff and put together the reading booklets which are available on the website.

All agreed that the Parent Council had had a good impact on pupils learning. A Parent Council tab has been added to the website which has copies of all the meeting minutes.

1. Maths

Mrs Sankey reported that the uptake by parents for any Maths workshops was considerably lower than those for Literacy. Could the council suggest ways of encouraging parents to have a greater input for maths? The new curriculum used new methods for maths which parents should be aware of.

Parents agreed it would be very useful for them to know the teaching methods used. It was suggested

- Too many letters are received home from school and parents miss things. To send home reminders to parents about forthcoming workshops or add a reminder to the website.
- Use the EPFA website to remind parents
- Add on to other school events so have a targeted audience (as per Year 1 Chitty Bang Bang)
- Maths lessons in the classroom with their children

*Mrs Sankey felt that parents should not have to keep being reminded about events. They should add events to their calendars or diaries when the information is received. There is no funding available for someone to keep updating the website however she will speak with the ICT support staff regarding this. **Action***

After discussion it was agreed that the EPFA website was for fundraising issues only.

The Chitty Bang Bang worked well and the school already had plans in place to do this with the Year 1 parents who attend the forthcoming school dinners.

*Parents were shown examples of maths methods that will be added to the website. A reminder for parents re these will be added to the newsletter. **Action***

2. Sports Funding

Mrs Sankey advised that the school receives some funding for sport through the government . All children should benefit from this not just an elite few although guidelines do say that a small amount can be spent on children who are gifted and talented in this area. Children with obesity should also be targeted. This is why the school would like to add an outdoor gymnasium that all the children can use and be of benefit to everyone. These plans are on hold until it is known what is happening with the expansion.

Currently Year 2 and Year 3 children receive Short Tennis lessons that parents contribute to, this will continue to run for this academic year. Next year the school have plans to only charge one year group and fund another year group with this money. How do parents feel about this?

A discussion took place about short tennis and the above was agreed.

Parents then said

- Some parents were unaware that they had to pay towards short tennis.
- Asked about providing transport to sporting events

*Letters were sent home to parents requesting contributions for short tennis however the school will look into this. **Action***

Not enough funding available to pay for a school bus and again would only benefit a limited number of children. Parents are asked to accompany/take their children to sporting events.

EPFA Funding

Mrs Sankey reported that, expansion plans aside, the EPFA funds were going to be used to develop the school grounds and asked parents for their suggestions for this. The children in KS2 have already suggested some extra seating in the KS2 playground. A discussion took place and the following suggestions were made and problems highlighted:

- KS1 entrance – parents congregate around the entrance which makes it very difficult to see children go in. This causes a health and safety issues as a child could go back down the path without being seen. It was suggested putting out white boards either side of the path with a `do not pass` sign on them for now to see if this helps. **Action** After Christmas
- A Blue Pen in the KS1 area
- That parents from 1B go around the other side to collect
- More play equipment at playtimes such as a large chess set or connect4
- Music in the playgrounds

*The school plans to develop the KS1 entrance even if the expansion does not go ahead. Mrs Sankey suggested a horseshoe shaped area with seating for parents to make it easier to see the children, parents thought this sounded like a good idea. If the expansion goes ahead the kitchen will be expanded and the car park made bigger. Mrs Sankey suggested that from January the Reception children queue on the front path, year one around the side and KS2 on the path to the Annex, parents thought this would help. **Action***

This was trialled once before and did not work very well, parents were not very good at keeping younger children with them and extra staff were needed to man the area.

Mrs Sankey will look into the equipment, she suggested painting games on the playground floor as the playground is used for PE lessons and too much equipment would get in the way.

*The radio station is played at lunchtimes currently and a dance package for the new curriculum has been purchased. Mrs Sankey will consider music at break times too. **Action.***

Date of next Meeting: 15th January 2015 at 2.30pm.