

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held 23rd March 2018

Attendees; Julie Howlett, Stephanie Fuller, Marie Henderson, Laura Granados, Nicola Woodley, Jade Hart, Mrs Woodbine and Laura Marchant

Apologies: Paul Harrison (Chair of Govs)

1. Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was confirmed that everyone was happy with the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Communication Survey - Mrs W provided an update - There was a good response to both the paper version of the survey and the online Survey Monkey – 53 online responses and 22 paper ones.

Mrs W shared the results of the Survey Monkey responses by showing us bar graphs of the responses to each question. The majority of which were positive with Agree and Strongly Agree responses. It was not possible to incorporate the paper responses into these graphs but Mrs W confirmed that the paper responses gave the same or similar results as the online ones.

Mrs W also provided us with copies of parent's comments. 30 people who completed the Survey Monkey provided extra comments.

The results of the survey have been shared with the staff and both short term 'quick fixes' and longer term ideas for change and development are being planned on an annual and two-yearly plan.

It has been acknowledged that there is a need for longer term planning of events. Teachers need to plan ahead more with their organisation and communication of class/phase events. The aim is to try to give at least a month's notice. Mr Taylor is updating the staff handbook with guidance on this matter.

The results show that many parents did not know how to communicate with the governors. The school website will be updated with an email address for the Chair of the Governors and also the Clerk to the Governors so that parents are able to make direct contact with them if needed.

Positively, responses showed that the majority of parents felt they were made to feel welcome at Langafel and that the staff are approachable. Also the results showed that FOLS is very much appreciated.

The most preferred way of communication to and from school was shown to be email.

3. KS1 dismissal procedure and car park safety - Julie said she had recently a 'light bulb' moment in the car park and had an idea for Long Stay and Short stay lanes in the car park to ease congestion and allow parents to exit as quickly as possible.

Only one parent has so far responded to the working party request notice on the Weekly. A date for the meeting will be sorted out soon and hopefully once that has been published, more parents will come forward with their ideas too. In the meantime, the caretakers are having a think about how the situation could be improved and Mrs Kirby will be involved on her return to school in Term 5. The school has been thinking about a possible solution regarding the busy collection of children at KS1, involving 3 specific areas in the car park for the children to be dispersed from. More will be shared by school on this once plans have been finalised.

The subject of the 'Langafel Lake' on Gorsewood Road was also discussed. Mrs Woodbine confirmed that they have now met with the local MP who is very supportive of the situation. He says that KCC have a duty of care to the children and believes that they must come up with a solution to the problem. KCC are currently debating as to whether it is an Education issue or a Highways issue. However as Gorsewood Road is an unadopted road it seems unlikely that the Highways dept. will put a new soak away in. Mrs W is hoping that KCC Education dept. will agree to increase the size of the school's soak away which is under the KS1 playground. The remedial work needed to the large potholes on the road surface would also be addressed at this time. This is an ongoing discussion, so Mrs W will keep parents informed of any new significant developments.

4. Drinking with lunchtime meal - Mrs W confirmed there are more cups available now. Children are either taking a cup of water through on their trays with their meal or taking their own water bottle to lunch. Some children are forgetting that they are expected to take a cup if they need one (as this is a new thing for them) and are still waiting until after eating to have a drink. It's a case of keep reminding them. Staff also need to remind the children that they can use their water bottles at lunch and to put them on the trolley to go through to the hall.

School has not yet trialled having water jugs on the tables. However, next term the Year 5's will be taking over the Year 6 jobs. Mrs Burgess will add lunch time water to the list and the year 5's will be tasked with checking with the younger children if they want a drink and giving one to them with their meal.

5. Seeking funding for swimming pool improvements – Laura Marchant provided an update. She has contacted Cecil Road Primary school who recently received a £10k grant for a new swimming pool roof. They have kindly offered to help with the form filling and application for a grant process if we need it. Grants are usually only given if it can be proved that the pool will benefit the wider community and also the school will need to raise some of the money. Our pool is currently used by Angela's Swim School and other schools so we would fulfil this criterion. Mrs W confirmed that the

new business manager (when they arrive) will be given this project to take forward and that it will need to be fully costed first before proceeding.

6. Reading rewards and book changing consistency at KS1 – There has been feedback from parents that books are not being changed regularly or that children keep getting the same book. The range books banded at a particular level also seems very variable. The reading reward scheme does not seem to have started, as children and parents have seen no sign of stickers, certificates or prizes being awarded. Mrs W said she will look into what is happening as she has seen that the certificates and prizes, which have been in school for a while.

7. AOB –

Marie brought up the subject of school dressing up days and said that some parents felt there had been too many recently within a short period of time (especially at KS) and that notice periods need to be longer for parents. The communication of these types of days also needs to be clearer. Mrs W reiterated that this has been discussed and made clear to staff while valuing the extra engagement a dress-up day can provide.

Jade mentioned that Autism Awareness week is coming up next week but that it was disappointing that nothing seems to be happening at school this year to mark the event. SLIC would like the school to be doing something. Mrs W said that the school would look to have its own Autism Awareness week at another week in the year, to ensure that the focus is not diluted with Sports Relief efforts from this week.

The meeting was closed at 3.15pm