

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held 5th October 2018

Attendees: Julie Howlett, Stephanie Fuller, Marie Henderson, Laura Granados, Nicola Woodley, Laura Marchant, Ayesha Ismaili-Field and Mrs Woodbine

Apologies: Paul Harrison (Chair of Govs)

1. Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting including Ayesha as new rep for SLIC. It was confirmed that everyone was happy with the minutes of the previous meeting. Julie apologised regarding oversight in adding agenda to shared drive and all agreed to go from Julie's copy.

Maria will be standing down as LKS2 rep from after this meeting. Replacement possibly been recruited from Term 3, so only one meeting without LKS2 rep hopefully. The FS/YR rep that had volunteered after the email to YR had a change in circumstances and can no longer volunteer. PC discussed the need for a general recruitment drive and email home to ensure at least one rep per phase for each meeting, still with a view to gathering one rep per Year Group ultimately.

Congratulations and thanks to staff were shared, for pushing on through what must have been a very challenging week, with parent consultations the evening of and before OFSTED, school photos, Full Governing Body meeting, Parent Council meeting and the OFSTED itself!

2. **Updates from school:**

Mrs Woodbine said she was pleased with how this week's OFSTED inspection went and is looking forward to sharing some of the lovely things that were said about Langafel.

- a) School Improvement Plan

Mrs Woodbine outlined the headlines of this year's SIP. The areas in focus are:

- Developing the 'Power of Reading' integrated approach to improving reading and writing for all
- Introducing and embedding a 'Mastery' approach to Mathematics via White Rose and Inspire resources to meet needs of all.
- Developing and embedding new marking policy based on current research into ensuring most effective outcomes for pupils at all levels.
- Continuing to improve and maintain attendance by robustly following new attendance systems and procedures
- Embedding Vision and Values in practise

- b) Marking Policy

Mrs Woodbine briefly summarised new research indicating that onerous marking of pupils' work does not guarantee improved outcomes. She explained how other, more immediate and reflective methods can prove to be more effective in terms of improving learning, such as verbal feedback, self and peer marking, grouping to teach following day based on previous day's outcomes and so on.

This research is shaping the new school marking policy, where teachers mark in the way they feel provides the best outcomes for their pupils at particular times.

c) Gorsewood Road potholes and drainage

Mrs Woodbine outlined how KCC education and the Diocese have categorically stated that school is not permitted to spend public funds on the repair of the road. KCC highways refuse to take responsibility for the road/damage/drainage as the residents of the unadopted road are responsible for its upkeep.

Key points to note here

- the school soakaway and drainage is fit for purpose and meets the needs of our school;
- the water from the road falls outside the school as this is the lowest point;
- navigation of the potholes is at a driver's own risk as no-one will pay or take responsibility for the road;
- previous surveys of the drainage system have indicated possibility of a sink hole developing;
- KCC have advised the school that the next step is to close the back playground to parking to minimise the risk to parents, children and prevent further damage to road;
- Mrs Woodbine has tried all avenues to resolve the problem and has now exhausted all methods/people to approach.

This is a catch 22 situation. The road/potholes are bad due to excessive traffic flow but if school closes the playground as a carpark, the result would be gridlock on Main Road. There is no workable solution to be found currently and there is further concern regarding prospect of future planning and development on Gorsewood Road. There is no conclusion to this as yet – it will hopefully not result in an accident or risk to child safety!

3. **Catchup on communication issues previously discussed:**

Transition from YR to Y1 – Although Meet the Teacher meetings in July were a step in the right direction, new Y1 parents felt that there was still inconsistency and unclear expectations, particularly regarding reading expectations in Y1. Not all children had a reading record at the start of term. Parents would have liked a paragraph summary prior to starting Y1 or in first week, regarding when reading books would start to be issued, frequency of reading books being changed, progression in book bands etc. It was also noted that some classes (not all) used contact books in addition to reading record books and parents were not sure of the purpose of each book. Parents felt that the progression in reading was clear in YR, due to the clear stages of RWI materials, but that so far in Y1, they are struggling to identify 'where their child is going' with reading.

Mrs Woodbine said new books have been ordered to support clear progression in reading through KS1 (these support the Power of Reading work the school is currently undertaking too). Julie has volunteered to sort (and label) books into book bands if school can support parents' understanding of the progression of this.

Class Dojo use vs Housepoints – Parents queried what the situation was regarding these, as some parents had sent messages via Class Dojo but received no response. Mrs Woodbine said the school had decided to stop using Class Dojo as it was not going as well as was hoped, but acknowledged this was not communicated to parents. She then clarified that the blue tokens are replacing dojos, with a blue token equating to one house point. When 25, 50 and 100 tokens are reached, children will receive Bronze/Silver/Gold badges as appropriate (not star badges as previously as these are no longer made). Each house collects points and the totals are shared in Worship. Good

behaviour is still acknowledged weekly with 'Green time' to give fairly instant gratification and make the link between good behaviour and a positive acknowledgement of it.

Newsletter inconsistencies – The production of the Weekly has been tricky due to staffing issues, but there is now a plan and a designated staff member responsible. This will hopefully enable a second pair of eyes to proof check it before it is sent. Also, school are now trying to send it on a Thursday, so any errors in it can be rectified on a Friday, before the weekend.

Notification of events – A communication annual plan has now been put together so that staff can plan trips etc to match curriculum much further in advance. This is an outcome from feedback in Communication Survey. Dates will now hopefully be automatically input into newsletters. Communication of school trips will now be at 6-week notice. This may result in a short-term loss of impromptu events, but should enable smoother and clearer communication.

4. **Catchup on other planned actions from previous meetings:**

Neurodiversity week/Pebbles – School is keen to run with the idea from Parent Council to create a rock garden with a unique rock painted by each child in the school and is hoping to tie this in with this year's Neurodiversity/Autism Awareness week (March/April 2019). Teachers have a plan for how to display each class's rocks. Stones and equipment will be provided by the school with suppliers to be confirmed. Landscaping services are clearing back some redundant foliage in an area in front of the school to make space for the rock garden.

Water with Lunch meal – Mrs Woodbine reported that this is going well and the change is becoming ingrained as routine. Some children are taking water bottles into the hall but water is provided if children put their hand up and request it. This is expected to become the new normal as new intake progress through the school.

Parking issues – The parking issues continue with continued bad parking on the zig zags and blocking of the road or pavement, with lack of consideration of others by a significant handful of parents/carers. The issue is highlighted frequently in the Weekly but to no avail. The parking patrol van has been coming round more frequently, so offenders may be issued tickets. Mrs Woodbine confirmed the school is awaiting delivery of large banners regarding considerate parking (like outside Darent Primary on Green Street Green Road).

Swimming Pool Improvements – Laura M. had met with Mrs Woodbine and outlined how she has researched funding for swimming pool improvements. School is now looking to apply for Lotto funding (up to 10k), Sport England funding (no Limit) and Aviva funding. The process is at the proposal and gathering of estimates stage, which should include estimates for roof, heating and lighting and flooring. The caretaker has asked a company in to investigate the loss of water from the pool at the moment. The pool needs a revamp. School will allocate some extra funding to the swimming pool improvement project.

Mrs Woodbine also outlined how more roofing on the school building will be repaired over the next few terms. Managing these repairs and improvements is an ongoing maintenance project in itself.

KS1 playground – KS1 reps raised how the KS1 playground has no real quality markings for interest of the children and very little seating. Mrs Woodbine suggested we wait and see what occurs with the Gorsewood Road and the drainage situation before revamping is embarked upon, so any new markings do not potentially have to be ripped up in any drainage renewal required under the playground.

5.. **AOB:**

Uniform supplier – Nicola explained how parents had approached her regarding the bad quality/sizing/range of the new supplier (Brigade). School said that they were looking into a more reliable supplier this academic year. Stitch design was fine but do not produce anymore. Tesco and Brigade are not as expected, so will be addressing this in good time before end of academic year.

Reading Rewards – Laura G. asked about the book tokens and weekly acknowledgement in Y5/6/ Mrs Woodbine described how most Y5/6 are not interested in stickers, so the rewards for regular reading at this phase are integrated into the Blue token behaviour system. The book tokens are given out at the end of term.

House points promised for Summer Reading Challenge – Parent council queried why these have not yet been issued and the promise not kept...the children remembered the promise and are keen to secure their reward! Mrs Woodbine said that the school has not yet received the list of children from the libraries, so cannot award the house points yet. Mrs Woodbine said that since this was Mr Hopkins' promise, he is now tasked to chase this and ensure those children who completed the challenge receive their 20 house points, as promised!

The meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Date of next meeting is TBC