

## Parent Council Meeting - Wednesday 19 March 2025

### Present:

**Head Teacher:** Fiona Wyeth (FW)

**Governors:** John Mitchell (JM) (Chair of Governors), Rob Zealey (RZ) (Deputy Chair of Governors), Oli Rodi Parent Governor (OR),

### Parents:

Claire Brady (CB) - Year R

Rosie Oglethorpe (RO) , Jessica Pizzotti (JP) – Year 1

Claire Whitlam (CW) – Year 2

Sarah Wariss-Simmons (SWS) – Year 3

Emma Daniel (ED), Laura Harrison (LH) , Jessica Pizzotti – Year 4

Rob Price (RP), Sarah Thomason (ST) – Year 5

Laura Harrison (LH) – Year 6

Apologies: Teresa Pepper (Year R), Clare Albert (Year R), Liz Chapman (Year 3)

<b>Meeting Chair: Oli Rodi (OR)</b>
Actions from previous meeting:
<b>Action 1: Healthy eating</b>
Snack list has been updated and included as part of policy.
<b>Action 2: Salt Bin (for use in icy weather)</b>
LH has logged with the Council (and also a note about repairs required to the fence by School).
<b>Action 3: Overton Rugby Club</b>
Clare Albert to liaise with Overton Rugby Club re. possible coaching in School.
<b>Further notes:</b>
<b>Break Time Sports Trolleys:</b> separate KS1 and KS2 break time sports trolleys (exact number of trolleys TBC) and OSA to be asked to fund. The contents are being discussed by Sports Ambassadors (FW has given them some ideas) and the idea will be taken forward by them.
<b>School website:</b> FW demonstrated the functionality of the school website and explained that content had been developed by previous Parent Council reps in response to parents wanting less emails/letters sent home. FW demonstrated “learning” link via which all meet and greet letters can be accessed.  School wants to communicate to parents what is on the website. RP suggested sending links to website rather than attachments, LH noted also more sustainable than printing (e.g. Meet and Greet booklets). LH queried whether “projects” can be added – FW confirmed that curriculum topics, spellings etc are on the website.  SWS queried what time the office is open and FW confirmed 08:30-16:00.
<b>Actions:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School to issues website links instead of attachments in future where possible and to flag in Friday Update what is on the website (e.g. “Did you know you can find this on the website....”)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FW/teachers to do a 5 minute website intro. at Meet and Greets to show parents what can be found and where.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School office opening hours to be included on the website.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>PC reps to promote the website where possible.</li></ul>
<b>Item 1: Meet and Greet Sessions</b>
FW clarified that School is trying to establish what works best at Meet and Greets and what else could be included.  Poor attendance noted in some (not all) years. CB highlighted that poor attendance at the Year R Meet and Greet last Autumn may have been due to lack of information about the date - date appeared in the school website calendar but was not communicated to parents very far in advance. The year before that, similar problems occurred. FW confirmed that the Year R Meet and Greet

takes place slightly later than others to allow new children (and parents) to settle into the school in September. Date to be given to 2025 starters in May.

Discussed the benefit of having a parent representative at Meet and Greets; all agreed this would be beneficial.

Homework and expectations around homework as well as what the learning objective is of homework could be clarified. Parents need to know how much they should support and help/correct children's work.

How to use the Link Book could be made clearer (instructions at the front of the Link Book were noted). Parents would appreciate knowing what to write in the Link Book and all considered an illustrative page/example at the Meet and Greet would be useful. It would also help to have an idea from teachers as to the level of input teachers would have into the Link Book for that academic year (parental and teacher input into the Link Book changes as children move up the School).

Parents would like more information about who the teachers are and what they are like, especially in KS2 where children go into school independently. It might be nice to understand a little more about their style/approach. JP noted the personal update from Mrs Wyeth in the Friday Update for example, could something similar be done for teachers? FW highlighted that this would need to be dealt with sensitively as teachers may not feel comfortable sharing information about themselves (noting some teachers are exposed to verbal and written abuse by parents etc). All agreed that the matter should be handled delicately. Where teachers were not comfortable talking about themselves, perhaps they could give something about their style or favourite bit of the curriculum i.e. not "personal" information? FW said she could speak to teachers.

#### **Actions:**

- Year R comms in May to include details of the Autumn Meet and Greet to try and help attendance this year.
- Parent Council reps to ask their classes what time works best for Meet and Greet (evening or another time e.g. after drop off/pick up).
- A parent from "last year" to be invited to Meet and Greets (i.e. a parent from the year above whose child completed the academic year in question and might be able to answer questions about topics/projects etc).
- FW to speak to teachers about giving a little more about themselves or their teaching style at Meet and Greets in future.

#### **Item 2: How to support parents so that they are able to engage with home learning**

FW stated that there is a general problem with a lack of parental engagement in some year groups which is not improving. School are seeking Parent Council's views to establish how to improve this position.

CW mentioned that there are lots of links and resources for parents as well as workbooks etc that might be useful for parents. Discussion around helping parents understand which resources are best and putting some pointers on the website to assist.

Parent reader training was highlighted as having been useful for parents who attended as learning phonics and early years approaches can feel as much a learning curve for parents as for children.

Reps queried what happens if you have a child who does not want to engage? It is sometimes not clear with open ended instructions from school about supporting at home what the optimal level of "extra" homework/home support is. If there is an optimal level of home support, why is this not just set as compulsory homework? What does school actually mean by saying parents need to support more at home for those parents who read etc with their children regularly? Does everyone need to "do more"? Meet and Greets could be used as an opportunity to explain what School means by "supporting at home", how much it matters and how much to do.

Children are not always given feedback on homework and it would be helpful if children at least (if not parents) got better feedback both in terms of rewarding effort and also understanding what areas they need to improve upon. There are seemingly no repercussions for children not doing

homework. FW noted that home life can have an impact upon children doing homework therefore not always fair to penalise the child and this is dealt with sensitively by teachers.

It can be difficult for PC reps to drive engagement – there is sometimes little engagement from parents on substantive issues ahead of PC meetings for example and therefore a difficult job to drive engagement alone; PC reps are by definition engaged parents and it's a hard ask to expect PC reps to reach those who don't want to or can't engage.

Some parents might not feel they can support at home or know where to start for a number of reasons e.g. not feeling confident with English/Maths themselves or due to a lack of familiarity with "the way things are done now". Further to the website demonstration by FW at the start of the meeting, PC reps agreed that leveraging the website for assistance re. learning objectives/homework seems a sensible, anonymous, practical way to start helping improve engagement.

Discussion on this point was cut slightly short by time; OR noted this felt like a significant topic we ought to justice to by returning to it in future.

**Action:**

- PC reps to plug links to website where possible.
- Clarity re. expectations for supporting at home to be given at Meet and Greets.

**AOB:** a lot of agenda items which we did not get to in this meeting. All to consider note circulated by FW ahead of this meeting to consider priority agenda items.

**Items for next meeting:** All PC reps to "reply all" to circulate ahead of next meeting.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 14 May, 19:15