

Parent Council Meeting Wednesday 12th February 2025

Present:

Head teacher -Fiona Wyeth (FW)

Governors - Oli Rodi (OR), Rob Zealley (RZ)

Parents – Clare Albert (CA) and Teresa Pepper (TP) – year R

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

Liz Chapman (LC), Sarah Wariss-Simmons (SWS) – year 3

Laura Harrison (LH), Jessica Pizzotti (JP) – year 4

Rob Price (RP), Sarah Wariss-Simmons(SWS) – year 5

Laura Harrison (LH) – year 6

Apologies - Emma Howard, Claire Whitlam, Sarah Thomason, Claire Brady

Meeting Chair – Oli Rodi

Item 1: Accident Reporting & Illness Reporting

- FW explained process – any child who needs first aid has the accident logged; if serious the child wears a sticker so all aware, a red form is sent home and a text is sent home. If the injury is significant parent will get a call to collect child. If the child's injury is obvious school will call parent to let them know so are aware before school pick up.
- LH – some parents have reported getting a text about the wrong child, FW recognised that there may be errors with siblings but if this happens asks that parents inform the school office
- FW explained each child has a primary parent nominated – both parents can 'opt in' so in this case both parents will receive a text if there has been an injury. It is recognised that sometimes there have been errors with siblings – please let the office know if this occurs. It is useful for separated households to be aware that both parents can 'opt in' to receive nominations.
- Discussed notifications to parents in terms of sickness reporting also – FW confirmed it is the primary parent who is contacted if a child is unwell at school, or in the case of separated parents it is the parent who has responsibility for the child that day. FW will look at the legalities of informing both parents by discussing with Hampshire Schools legal team
- Suggested that parents look to see who is opted in for information from the school, FW will look at options for if this can be done via Arbor and will look at options for separated households.
- FW audits all accidents which occur at the school. This provides useful information for the school if there are particular areas of the school ground which seem to

cause recurring problems but can also be helpful in school identifying if a child has a high level of accidents as it may be an early indicator that the child has a motor development issue or that there is a friendship issue. The analysis is also monitored by the governors.

- LH and CA asked if an accident were to happen late in the day if the policy is still followed – FW responded that parent should still be notified in same way and child still highlighted with red form/sticker but that if late in the day and the office staff busy with end of day issues the text to parent may come late.
- FW asked that parents inform school office if First Aid Policy is not followed

ACTIONS: Parents to report any issues with accident reporting to school office, FW to look at informing both parents if child sent home from school/incident at school

Item 2: Advance notice of dates

- RO and JP raised that parents have asked if more notice could be given around inset days
- FW explained that CPD for staff is considered in May when have information around budget and staffing is confirmed. When training involves external trainers this can be difficult to confirm. FW explained she tries to give as much notice as possible but does need to consider the staff needs for the year ahead as professional development time is critical to ensuring the very best for the children
- CA asked if there could be a year planner for each year group to consider things like what is needed for school trips/workshop days/theme days. FW agreed this could be included in the year group 'meet and greet' to enable parents to plan ahead.
- TP asked about the school calendar to enable parents to plan e.g. sports day – FW confirmed dates have been done to July and the school office have been asked to add the final dates to the end of the school year.
- SWS asked if consideration could be given to the school calendar when arranging school clubs as clubs were put on for the evenings when parents evenings were planned meaning the club would not be able to run. FW agreed to try to look at this each term to ensure clubs were only charged for the weeks they could run.
- JP asked about digital calendar download and during the meeting TP was able to download school calendar to digital calendar so appears this is enabled.

ACTIONS: FW to check for clashes in calendar with existing school dates, FW will consider as much notice as possible for inset dates but is dependent on staffing and school budget information

Item 3: Class names

- CA feels there is confusion for children/parents/teachers that the class number doesn't relate to the year number
- RO and SWS both spoke about having a number for the year followed by the teacher initials but it was recognised that this could also be confusing and when teachers change a lot of re-labelling would be needed

- FW suggested that the children seem to know their class number and it may be that it is more of a parent need
- FW explained the logical numbering of classes to where the class is in the school
- LH suggested a map of the school may make this clearer for parents and would help with events like parents evening and collection from school disco when parents do not know what the class numbers are (as in some cases may need to pick up from a different classroom). FW suggested a map of the school for the website and to go in to induction packs would be helpful for this.

ACTIONS: FW to provide map of school detailing classrooms and class numbers for website and school induction pack

Item 4: PE

- TP raised that the children benefit from time to be outside, running around and movement and that this is needed even if the weather is not good
- FW agreed the staff all recognise that the children are calmer when they have had time outside at break and regular movement breaks but it can be difficult to accommodate if the weather is bad
- FW explained that in the 32.5 hour school week the school have to cover the statutory curriculum. It was explained that all professional associations, for example music and religion, would like more time within the school curriculum for their subject. The Department for Education set the what but not how this needs to be covered and taught. FW explained that they have introduced orienteering to enable more use of the school grounds and to increase time spent outdoors. Sometimes this is within PE, sometimes in addition to PE as cross curricular learning (Science or Geography for example) .
- LH asked why year R only have x1 timetabled PE session in the week, all other year groups having x2 timetabled sessions – FW explained that year R spend a lot more time outside than other year groups as part of their daily provision, enabled by the grounds around the year R classrooms.
- FW asked all teachers prior to the parent council meeting for feedback on the following questions – 1. What do you do when it's wet weather if you have outside PE? 2. How often are you using the daily mile with your class? 3. How often are you doing orienteering with your class? 4. What do you do if you can't use the school hall for PE? Answers from the teachers included – it is difficult to use the hall if wet weather as there is only x1 free hall slot in the week; using daily mile 1-2 times a week and this is in addition to PE, that not all children chose to do it, that sometimes it is tagged to the end of break, sometimes used as a movement break; orienteering 1-2 times a term; if give up hall slot then do PE outside, have done orienteering or used the daily mile; if it's very wet and we are unable to get outside then we will do inside activities instead like Joe Wicks, Cosmic Yoga and Go Noodle
- LH asked how long the class would do the alternative indoor activities if unable to get outside for usual PE slot due to wet weather – FW suggested the class may do shorter indoor activities but do more activities spread out over the course of the day, instead of the longer PE session when limited by wet weather

- FW explained the MUGA has helped as it is another surface that can be used to play on when weather limits use of other spaces
- LH asked if parents could help the school as appreciated this winter that large parts of the playground were coned off due to ice; LH also explained that parts of the pavement up and down to school were quite dangerous when it was icy. FW explained that it took 1-2 hours for school staff to grit an area as a path through school so it is not always easy to keep large areas safe when weather is bad. The playgrounds are often not thawing until late afternoon. LH said she will ask the Parish Council if an additional salt bin up nearer school could be provided by the Highways Agency to enable the path up to school to be gritted, even if this was with parent help and support.
- LH asked if the planned Forest School provision will help to provide an increase in outdoors time. FW advised that currently x1 teacher and x1 LSA doing the forest school training and school will need to start to think about how this additional resource can be utilised to the benefit of all 400 children.
- OR asked if the school had a need for increased covered play areas to enable more outdoors time, as this could be put to the OSA to raise money for this – FW explained there are already quite a few covered areas around the school which do help
- CA said there is an offer from Overton Rugby Club to come and do some coaching sessions for the school. FW explained they have done this before and that she is happy to be contacted to look at this. FW advised happy for coaches to come in and support teachers with rugby coaching skills but accepts that this can be difficult for coaches to accommodate during the school day. FW would also be happy to discuss option of after school coaching depending on coach availability.
- SWS asked how time would be found to incorporate Forest School if school aren't able to find time in the curriculum for additional PE – FW explained it is challenging to meet all the needs set within the national curriculum so may have to consider Forest School at lunchtimes/after school but this would be achieved in consultation with the staff team. FW explained she also encourages the teachers to think creatively about how they achieve the curriculum, for example, blocking some subjects such as 2 days of design and technology to work on a project rather than 1 hour here and there.

ACTIONS: LH to speak with Parish Council about additional salt bin nearer to school for use in bad weather to ensure pathways safer, CA to liaise with Overton Rugby Club to ask they contact FW directly with any offers of coaching for the school

Item 5: Meet and Greet sessions

- FW would like to know what would be most helpful to include in these sessions and what parents would find helpful to know at the start of the school year – sessions are run for each year group.
- JP suggested a parent to attend the meet and greet as parents may find it easier to ask some questions to a parent than the teacher
- FW advised that the school have been working on the new induction packs and will take on board including the suggested additions of a map of the school and an explanation of the class numbers

- CA asked if there was a new starter mid year if that family could be put in contact with the parent council rep for that class/year
- RO agreed the above would be helpful or school in someway facilitating the understanding that there is a year/class whats app group which is often really helpful for parents to keep up with things going on
- OR asked if a parent did attend the meet and greet sessions if they could bring examples of the costumes/projects done in that year to support parents in knowing what will be coming up in that year
- LC said the weekly school newsletter has been really valued and helpful in keeping everyone informed each week
- FW asked if each parent council rep could offer suggestions for anything else to include in the induction packs by 28th February
- FW asked if parent council reps could go back to their class parents and ask for feedback on meet and greets from other parents and how these could be made more helpful
- RP asked that it is highlighted to anyone starting mid year about the early Friday finish and to be provided with information around what after school provision there is on a Friday – FW advised that anyone joining mid year has a tour with herself and this is explained during this prior to joining the school so that anyone starting mid year understands school starts/finishes, where the class is etc.

ACTIONS: Parent council to make suggestions on what to include in school induction pack, parent council to liaise with class/year group parents to see what would be helpful to include to make year groups meet and greet sessions as beneficial as possible, FW to consider how parent council reps could be helpful with meet and greet sessions and with any mid year new starters to provide support/information

Any other business:

- FW advised that many children are not being supported at home with reading, maths, spellings etc and that the teachers notice the difference in those children's learning. FW would like parent council reps to ask parents if there is anything school could do to help parents feel confident to support their child/children with learning at home.

ACTIONS: Parent council to liaise with class/year group parents and feedback

- **Date for next meeting:** Wednesday 19th March at 19.15