

Meet the Governors meeting 30.6.15

Present: Ed Lockington, Myriam Groessens, 2 parents

Apologies

Several other parents could not attend but expressed a wish to attend in future. One parent who had indicated an intention to attend did not attend on the evening.

MG opened the meeting following introductions of parents and governors present and explained the purpose of the meeting and the workings of the Governing body.

- A parent asked whether any further new classrooms were planned for the future as she expressed a concern about split year groups. Following discussion, she acknowledged the addition of the new classroom this year and understood why no further additional classroom or expansions of the school were planned at this stage.
We would love to have more space but unfortunately there is not enough money or numbers of children to consider any further development.
- Parking was seen as a potential problem if the school were to expand. An example of problems was discussed especially where parents parking on the chevrons in front of the school obscured the vision onto the road when coming out of the car park. Staggered finishing times for the pupils was seen as helpful towards the car park problems, but a parent wondered if play on the playground equipment could be limited for the younger years.
We did introduce the staggered end of school especially to alleviate the problems of parking difficulties. The pub next door does offer the rear of their car park to help offer more space. The parents who park on the chevrons are breaking the law and are causing a dangerous obstruction. This is out of the school's control and is for the police to patrol.
- An interest in after school clubs to be extended for the younger children was expressed by another parent - for instance Choir, nature club or board games club.
All of the clubs are run on a voluntary basis and the teachers do not have time to run more than one club per week. If parents wish to offer their time voluntarily to organise clubs then they need to come and discuss it with me.

- The same parent expressed some concern regarding Health and Safety issues around the little playground. She had witnessed two separate incidents involving the same child who had run round from the little playground to the car park and Scallywags after the child had been dropped off by its parents but before the child was registered. The parent suggested a system where the child puts their name on a board on their arrival - as is in use in class one- could this be adopted for class two as well? A further suggestion was made to prevent similar incidents of using the gate by class three in the mornings. Another parent expressed concern about potentially losing the interaction between parents and teachers/staff if children were dropped by this gate to a member of staff. Further discussion regarding the pros and cons of parents staying until the bell went were held without firm conclusion for or against.

Parents are responsible for their children until the bell goes. We pay a member of staff to be on duty for ten minutes before the bell is rung. We are concerned that a child left the playground before school started. It is important to ensure that the member of staff is aware that you are leaving if you have to leave before the bell rings.

- Following on from this discussion a parent wanted it noted how happy she was with the school overall and felt “everything is lovely” but questioned the behaviour policy as she felt reports from children about class “punishments” rather than reprimanding the child in question for their poor behaviour seemed unfair.

Punishments for children should be relevant to the misdemeanor. I have discussed this with all teachers. Please talk to your class teacher or me if you have further concerns.

- EL asked parents present which part of the website they felt were most useful. They reported the calendar, letters, class pages and Head teacher awards most useful but commented that not all letters seem to be added on and pages could be more up to date, for instance the topic children are working on for the term on the class pages and the Head teacher awards.

We do try hard to keep the website up to date and apologise if things do get out of date. I have reminded everyone concerning updating letters and their class pages. I will also try to get the Headteacher awards typed up on the Friday so that it can go onto the website as soon as possible once the awards have been made.

- A discussion about the amount of parents helping at events was raised as it was felt it always seemed to be the same parents who volunteered. Ways of better involvement from a wider range of parents was briefly discussed but was felt to be better addressed by the PTA.

The PTA is very aware of the difficulties and will be putting together, after the AGM, a list of events where help is needed and hopefully this will lead to a greater range of volunteers coming forward.

- EL asked whether parents were happy to a reference being made to the existence of policies rather than having full copies of policies available on the website. All present agreed this to be sufficient.

There is statutory guidance concerning policies on the website. There are some which must be published. All policies are available for parents.

- A parent appreciated the opportunity and the readiness of teachers to talk about their child with positive events as well as concerns easily shared. She added: "It is a super school." Another parent added how lovely it had been to see how enthusiastic the staff had been on a trip she helped out with. She appreciated how the values of the school were adhered too and manners/behaviours of the children were exemplary. The trips were valued by all present and thought to be "super" and it was acknowledged how happy all the children seem to be at school. Thanks were passed to all the staff and some in particular.

It is very pleasing to hear such positive comments and I am glad to hear praise for the staff and the children.