



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 25th September 2019 - 2pm

Present: Mrs Roache, Ms McCandlish, Mrs Haynes, Mrs Quest, Mrs Nyland, Mrs Dowding, Mr Richmond, Mrs Oak, Mrs Nye, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Jarratt and Mrs Bowley
Apologies: Mrs Rossiter.
SMT: Mrs Ashe, Mrs Hales, Mrs Thelwell, Mrs Green
Minutes: Claire Mansfield.

Mrs Ashe opened the meeting with a presentation including Parent Council's achievements last year and the following four objectives for the coming year - see attachment.

1. Safety of School Community

Harriet Gill, PSHE Subject Leader, will research the possibilities of a Walking Bus. This will be supported by Charlotte Oak. PC suggested meeting at the Methodist Church and walking children to school from there. More research needed. Charlotte Oak will also communicate new Station Road changes and Consultation and communicate to parents via Weekly News, together with a new Observation Log dedicated to Hanbury Road. Supported by another member of PC Charlotte will investigate issues and solutions - see attachment.

Suggestions made on how parents can be engaged through Road Safety Week, Book Week and Parents Evening.

2. Mental Health and Well Being

School has introduced the band system. All children have been given a band.

4 squares added on the KS2 playground in the Summer term and a wooden adventure playground on KS1 field.

Thank you Cara and the PTA for the funds raised to improve the outdoor facilities. A timetable and system has been put in place to ensure fairness and safety.

There are plans for an 'activity shed' to be built on the KS2 playground, which will house less physical and more creative activities, colouring, chat, music, magazines and crafts. Parents can volunteer to assist at lunchtime.

Helen Fantham is running lunchtime clubs in Darby's on a Tuesday and Wednesday, this helps with friendship issues etc. Mrs Hales has moved the Music cupboard and created a sensory room with toys, bean bags and a quiet space. KS1 can access these resources and children can talk to Helen confidentially.

Barry Carpenter, who was recently appointed to the UK's first Professorship in Mental Health in Education, provided inset training after school for all staff at Dorridge and surrounding schools.

Harriet Gill PSHE Subject Leader has created a Lunch Box Policy, which was shared with PC to review and gather feedback from parents. All feedback to be left at KS2 office - see attachment.

3. The Environment

Mrs Brookson, Environmental Lead, supervised a trip to Packwood with the Eco Council to harvest the vegetables planted earlier in the year. Plans are in place for a Big Soup Share when KS2 kitchen will make soup with the vegetables and invite Year 3 parents and children for a donation. Proceeds will go to a homeless shelter in Birmingham.

During the Summer Holidays Mrs Brookson and Mrs Coe cleared some areas outside the classrooms for planting.

Any willing gardeners will be encouraged to volunteer to support Mrs Brookson to plant herb and vegetable gardens.

4. Communication – Mrs Ashe encouraged PC to gather feedback on school related communication.

Open forum next meeting.

Points raised by Parents:

Daniel Grist has gone to Arden now but would like someone to continue with his successful collection of glasses for charity.

Is it possible for parents to donate unwanted laptops and ipads?

Cara Bowley explained that this is something she has previously investigated as a fund raising initiative but is not viable. Recycling clothes and printer cartridges is possible.

Guitars provided by Solihull Music Service for the Year 4 WOPs scheme need new cases.

Broken handles and zips. Some parents have ordered new cases on line to assist with the protection and transport to and from school. Mrs Nyland will look into purchasing new cases in bulk and asking parents for a donation.

French Club. Mrs Thelwell has been in touch with La Jolie Ronde about reinstating French Club. Claire Mansfield to follow up.

As part of the Mindfulness initiative in school, **Morning Yoga Club** was offered to parents for children in Year 3&4 for the Autumn Term. Only two children subscribed. It is felt that this is mainly due to parents already having childcare provision in place for breakfast and winter mornings. Plans are in place to offer the club to more year groups for the Spring Term.

There has been some confusion about parents volunteering for **Guided Reading in Year 3 and 5**. Parents are permitted to read with their child's year group but not with their child. Mrs Hales sent a letter at the beginning of term to all parents asking for volunteers and allocated parents according to their preferences. DBS required - school assists with application.

Next meeting Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 2pm.

Attachments:

Mrs Ashe - Presentation

Parent Council Members Table - please contact Claire Mansfield with corrections/additions

Charlotte Oak - Road Safety Minutes

Draft - Lunchbox Policy