

Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 13th November 2019 – 1.30pm



Present: Isabel Collins, Julie Nye, Laura Jackson, Bhav Nyland, Charlotte Oak, Nathalie Rossiter, Sally Quest, Elizabeth McCandlish, Claire Dowding. **Apologies:** Cara Bowley, Ruth Roache, Ros Ashe

1. There were no matters arising from previous minutes.
2. Feedback by parents on communication in school was collated and can be seen below:

List the forms of communication you know we use:

Letters
Emails
Facebook
Website
Text messages (emergencies only due to cost)
Posters
Parents' Evenings/Information evenings
Day to day interaction with staff
Home/School Organiser
Parent Council

Impact:

Particularly like Facebook as it is more of a promotion and celebration of what children have done. Also, Facebook is useful to highlight reminders quickly. We are aware that not everyone has Facebook which is why emails are also sent out.

Even better if:

Love the weekly news but could add links to it.

There was some discussion around what other schools use to communicate with parents. Bentley Heath and Knowle use Parentmail whilst Arden use Edulink. These are APPs which puts the onerous back onto parents. All information is targeted but central, so if a parent needs particular information it can be found here. These systems also link Parents Evening and Parent Pay which makes it simple to have it all in one place.

Mrs Hales and Mrs Green agreed to look in to these APPs and whether they would be beneficial to our school.

It was felt that parents may need some clarification as which communication should be used for what information. It was highlighted that the Website holds all our statutory information and useful information especially for new starters. The email was our main communication system which is targeted so parents don't receive lots of irrelevant information. Facebook is a quick fire reminder and a place to celebrate achievements. Many parents felt as though the school did all they could with communication and that parents had to take some responsibility.

3. General Feedback from Parents

- Mathematics homework in Year 3: Parents were unsure whether Mathematics should be set every week and if there is no work assigned to a child does that mean there is no homework. Apparently this was discussed during the information evening but we will ensure this information is on next week's Weekly News.
- Some parents felt it is important to see their child's own class teacher at Parents' Evening as well as English and Maths.
- With mental health and well-being being high up on everyone's agenda, it is important that parents are told about how happy/confident/well-adjusted their child is.
- Assessment Week in school raised some questions. Jodie Hales explained how school uses the results.
- Charlotte Oak will put together a FAQs for new parents who have joined us in Nursery and Reception.

Thank you to Charlotte Oak for creating a display and talking to Parents at Parents' Evening about the Walking Bus proposals.

Spring Term Meeting Dates: Wednesday 15th January and 26th February 2020 at 2pm.