



PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020

Welcome and minutes of the last meeting

Apologies were received from Sinead Nelson

Emma Briggs chaired the meeting, Hayley Thistlethwaite minuted the meeting and Paul Barber represented the staff.

Present

Paul Barber PB (Headteacher), Emma Briggs EB (Chair and parent), Laura Carpenter LC (Co Chair and parent), Jess Winter JW (Governor), Helen Snow HS (Governor), Hayley Thistlethwaite HT (Secretary and parent), Sophia Fadil SF (parent), Brian Rossi-Anderson BRA (parent), Aoife Doughty AD (parent), Magda Pasiut MP (parent), Nicki Lawes NL (parent)

Actions from previous minutes

EB worked through the list of actions from the previous minutes.

Review minutes from previous meeting

Re-election of new Chair

Hayley Thistlethwaite agreed to Co-Chair with Laura Carpenter

School Swimming lessons

It was discussed that when safe, swimming lessons were to resume for school children, so monies already paid for previous Year 4 pupils (now Year 5) will be held onto until this can be arranged. Realistically, it will probably not be until after March 2021.

Action

PB to contact Oliver at Roedean to discuss the use of their pool, when it is safe and fit to do so.

Review Policy

All policies (including the review policy) have now been updated to include COVID details, and also now include a more detailed explanation of how 'Time Out' is managed for all classes.

Food Allergies

As a nut free school, it was discussed about providing a list to parents on what can and cannot be included in school lunch boxes. Some food items were not as obvious as others, so it was just a reminder. A list to be compiled that can be added to school ping and newsletter.

Action

HT to generate a list of allergen foods, to then be agreed with the school parent council – ready to be distributed to parents / carers

Mews Parking / Parking Outside School

Pre COVID, there was an issue with cars parking on double yellow lines outside/nearby to the school but since drop off and pick-ups are now staggered, this issue has been greatly reduced. In addition to this, there is no after school club at the moment, so there is no need for parents to park in the school car park.

Action

PB to ask our new lollypop man to report any repeat offenders parking close to school, so that it can be dealt with directly through the school.

School Crossing

We now have a new Lollypop man outside the school at drop off and pick up, which has greatly helped with road safety outside the school. As mentioned above, it may also act as a deterrent for parents trying to park close to the school.

New Business

After School Club

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances Anna has left ASC, so the school are in the process of tendering for a new provision. They are looking at commencing the club in January at the school and parents / carers will be able to use their childcare vouchers. Any unused vouchers from the previous ASC can be used moving forward to the new providers.

Action

PB to confirm when the agreement has been completed and to confirm the number of children who are able to attend during social distancing regulations.

Parents Evening

It was discussed about the possibility of doing parents evening on Zoom/Teams, but the school have decided to make phone calls to parents instead. Time slots will be offered to parents in the next few days (as usual) and they will get a call from the pupils' teacher on that chosen date / time. Parents evening to take place W/C 23 November.

A Ping will be sent out by the end of this week to detail where each child sits in terms of Phonics (Rec / Yr 1) and Reading, Writing and Maths – plus any targets for each child.

Lunch Menu

At the moment, the school offers two choices of school dinners to pupils. A meat option and a veggie option. It was discussed about the possibility of offering more choice including Jacket Potatoes and maybe sandwiches. PB mentioned about the size of the kitchen and staff able to work to adhere to social distancing so other choices may not be possible.

There is also a concern over food waste too, which could be impacted if more choices are available.

Action

PB to check with the school Business Advisor (Kim) whether it would be possible to add more choice.

PB to see whether the school can gather feedback from the pupils on what they think of the school dinners

Year 6 Assessments / Ready for Year 7

With changes to exams this year and maybe next, it was discussed whether Year 6 would have to sit SATS at some point before they go to secondary school. PB mentioned that there is still no decision on this but is hoping that they will happen before the end of the school year.

As mentioned above, parents will be informed of their child's progress / targets by the end of this week.

Action

PB to confirm when known if SATS will happen for YR 6

Newsletter

Parents have been asking when the newsletter will be returning, as it has been sorely missed. The school have been concentrating on other priorities (teaching / COVID) at the moment and as there is only one person in the school office at one time it has been difficult to resume. Any important messages that need to be relayed have been sent on the school ping including important dates etc.

Stars of the week have been replaced with Shout Outs within the You Tube school assemblies filmed by PB

Action

PB to resume the school newsletter by Xmas and it was agreed that it should be sent out once a month, instead of once a week.

PB to ensure that parents are notified of when their child gets a Shout Out / Star of the week by Ping

Forest School

It was confirmed that Forest School will resume at some point, using a member of staff from the school instead of outside resource. At the moment it was not possible to do, due to the cross over of bubbles.

Action

PB to check when it will be safe to start

After School Activities

French after school club has been reintroduced with limited numbers, but there is a concern for other school clubs starting as this will mean a cross-over of bubbles in the school. The safety of children and staff are the main priorities at the moment, so all clubs are on hold until it is safe for them to resume.

Homework Expectations

Some parents had concerns over the number of pings being sent out in terms of homework expectations, including take home tasks. It appeared that some year groups were getting more pings than others and becoming overwhelmed with information. To ensure clear communication of homework for all year groups, it was agreed that a standard approach was needed.

Action

PB to ensure there is a dedicated page on the website for each year group outlining homework and take-home tasks including any relevant deadlines.

AOB

Safeguarding of children during pick up from school (winter months)

There have been concerns from some parents about ensuring that children are given to the correct parent / carer during the winter months, as people may not be instantly recognisable due to hats, scarves and face masks etc. Even though this is a low risk situation, it was discussed that a safety measure would be put in place to mitigate the risk.

Action

PB to email local Head Teachers to check on any possible successes they may have had in this area

Action

ALL – To educate children about 'Stranger Danger' / at home and in school

Anti COVID Beliefs

Some parents are concerned that within the community there are people that don't think COVID is a real illness / situation. Although the school has no authority / say over what parents and carers believe, they do have a duty of care to the children and are continuously communicating the importance of social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands and generally keeping safe.

Action

ALL – To ensure that we continue to communicate the realness of the situation and work at keeping ourselves and others safe

Meeting Closed. Thank you to those that attended

Date of next meeting: Day / Date TBC

If you would like to get in touch email parentcouncil@lourdes.brighton-hove@sch.uk or Facebook <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1849579305353769>