



PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021

Welcome and minutes of the last meeting

Apologies were received from Laura Carpenter

Hayley Thistlethwaite chaired and minuted the meeting, Paul Barber represented the staff and Mel Fane represented the governors.

Present

Paul Barber PB (Headteacher), Mel Fane (Chair of Governors), Hayley Thistlethwaite (Co Chair, secretary and parent), Brian Rossi-Anderson BRA (Governor and parent), Nikki Lawes (parent) and Sinead Pellatt (parent)

Actions / review of previous minutes

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

School Swimming lessons

This is still on hold and will be reviewed in the Autumn term.

Food Allergies

HT amended the document and provided to parent council reps for review

Action

HT to make any changes and send to the school office for distribution

Mews Parking / Parking Outside School

The staggered starts and finishes are helping to reduce the number of cars parked near the school, but all parents and carers should continue to practice safe parking where they can.

We don't have a lollipop person at the moment (which was helping with this situation), but Paul has contacted the council and waiting for news on a replacement.

After School Club

Katz Klub is now open but only on limited numbers. This will hopefully increase once lockdown restrictions are relaxed.

Parents Evening

All parent evenings are now up to date. If parents have individual concerns, they can contact the school directly.

Lunch Menu

Now that the Eco and Student Councils are back up and running, the school can involve them to discuss whether the food offered at lunch meets the requirements and tastes of the children.

Action

PB to discuss with ECO and Student Councils

Year 6 Assessments / Ready for Year 7

Year 2 SATS

Although SATS have been cancelled for Year 2 and Year 6, the classes are continually being assessed which is also the same for the other year groups.

Newsletter

Now that the children are back in school it was discussed that post Easter would be a good time to resume the newsletter. By that point, there will be more 'news' items to communicate. It was also discussed that it will be distributed every two weeks for the moment.

Action

PB to resume after Easter

Forest School

At present there is a member of staff being trained to take over Forest School, with the plan that every school year gets to be involved at some point during the school day. It will initially start off with Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. The only activity after school at the moment is French, but again once bubbles and restrictions are lifted then other activities can commence.

Homework Expectations

As the children get older, the purpose of homework is to get them ready for senior school homework expectations.

It was agreed moving forward though, that the parent council would ascertain from each year group what parents and carers feel that homework should include and feedback to the group. Paul would also share his understanding of what homework should be and then from there the group can start to formulate a Homework Policy document, which can then be accessed by all existing and new parents moving forward.

Action

ALL – to ask parents from each year group what they think homework should include / look like

PB – To look at existing expectations of homework

Zoom Lessons

Parents and carers were happy that their concerns were addressed regarding zoom lessons after our meeting. Overall, parents and carers were also happy with the lessons in general.

New Business

Year 6 Leavers Jumpers

As with previous years, there will be the option to organise Year 6 leavers jumpers / hoodies.

Year 6 End of Year Party

It was discussed about the option of using the school hall for an end of year party for Year 6, which needs to be discussed with the school business manager.

Action

HT to contact Kim Breckell to discuss this further

Contribution to School Development Fund

HT asked if the money collected for the school development fund could come from a partnership with a private company. It was agreed that because the school is accountable to the diocese and needs to show no favouritism it would be best to speak to the PTA about a connection with them instead.

Action

HT to contact the PTA to discuss this further

School Pick up times

There had been concern from parents / carers about the crowds gathering at school pick up and people not adhering to the 2m distance. There had been a request for an alternative time for collection to avoid the numbers. At the moment, it is not possible to offer as it makes the staff day longer and doesn't offer parity between staff in terms of workload.

If parents have an individual concern though, they can contact the school directly and discuss any support that they may like.

Year 6 PGL

The school has provisionally booked in for Year 6 to go to Blacklands Farm on W/C 5th July and will be in touch by the end of this week with more details.

Action

PB to communicate with Year 6 by the end of the week

Governors

After reviewing the results of the parent survey, it was discovered that many parents and carers did not really understand what the Governors did at the school. It was agreed in the meeting that as a starting point a document should be drawn up outlining what Governors' responsibilities are and how that connects to the school.

It was also agreed that we need to communicate about the Governors School Development Fund, what this is needed for and how families can contribute.

Further to this and to avoid confusion, it was also agreed that we need to clearly communicate what the PTA are responsible for and how it differs from the School Development Fund.

Many ideas were discussed on how we can get families engaged and contributing including engaging with the children, a regular stand in the school grounds communicating the School Development Fund and posters on the fence on the school grounds explaining about the PTA and the School Development Fund.

Action

MF – To create a document outlining what the Governors are responsible for

MF – To send the existing letter to parents about the School Development Fund

PB – To create a YouTube Video showing parents / carers round the school outlining what the School Development Fund is used for and how families can help contribute

ALL – To continue thinking about how this can easily be communicated to families and their children throughout the year.

Year 2 Teacher

PB is having a meeting with the Year 2 teacher to discuss coming back to work, but in the meantime the school are continuing with the current staff provisions until the foreseeable future.

Year 2 Schoolwork Communication

Year 2 class asked if the same amount of communication as was in place during lockdown, including Maths, English and Topic –as they found this very useful. It was agreed that the information would be posted regularly online in the Year 2 section.

Action

PB to ensure that they Year 2 teachers continue to post details on the website

In school keyboard lessons

It was discussed about the potential of keyboard lessons returning to school in the future.

Action

PB to check whether it is possible to bring this back

School Lunch Menu – Old Menu

It was asked if the menu for school lunches is going to revert back to the original options and if so when would that be. A new school menu is ready for after the Easter break and can be viewed on the school website, with a ping going out next week.

Action

School Office – to send out a ping next week with the new menu

Year 3 Holy Communion

Year 3 parents and carers were keen to find out when the lessons for Holy Communion would start (as they usually start in the Autumn Term of this school year). It was mentioned that this will probably be postponed until September 2021

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>