

# Parent Council Meeting

## Minutes

Tuesday 12 November 2024

Present: Jo Ford (3Apple), Barak Levy-Hirsch (Pear), Lina Mattsson (Cherry), Roseanna Gregory (Cypress), Sally Baker (Hazel), Wendy Lill (Poplar), Sarah Dauncey (6 Oak), Haena Park (6 Ash), Este Van Der Walt (Willow), Sara Carlton (Deputy Headteacher), Lucy Mastrocola (Headteacher), Jill Evans (School Liaison)

### My Maths

**Why have we lost this program? Kids have no idea what their passwords/logins are.  
Is there a new maths program? Parents need clarity.**

Apologies for lack of clarification from school, yes we have changed our focus. Maths homework is now focussing on arithmetic. Ms Miller went on a maths training course and a new approach based on the idea that arithmetic and timetables were the phonics for maths in that all maths derives from it some way and the new strategy is developed from that.

My maths was expensive and due for renewal. The school wanted to put more emphasis on arithmetic - making it fun and engaging. A new programme called Blooket, the current JT Blast and paper based work will be introduced. The teachers will trial this. No login details will be needed, just click on links on Google classroom. Everything needed for maths homework will be on Google Classroom with all relevant links. Homework to be handed in on there (unless paper based.) Timetables/arithmetic homework will be on alternate weeks.

A letter about the changes and information about Google Classroom will go out tomorrow.

Year 6 slightly different. Year 6 homework always on their classroom.

### How do you know what they have done other than writing it down yourself?

The year group can look on there and analyse what they have done. See both results individually and across the board

Blooket has more benefits as does not rely on parents response. A Quiz on a Google form can see what the children have got right and this goes to teachers

SLT will ask for feedback from parents at next meeting in January and decide which is best.

## **SLT Capacity Update**

The SLT are now in class a lot more. This decision was discussed with the Governors and felt to be the best way forward. It may be as a result responses might not be quite as prompt etc. However, parents have not commented which is great.

Definitely, day to day the SLT are working extremely hard across all areas and feeling that there is less capacity.

## **Are there benefits to being in the classroom?**

In the past SLT was used as PPA cover so would be in the classrooms to cover frequently. It is unusual for SLT responsible for a class and all the work that goes with that. At the upcoming Parent/carers meeting only LM will not be talking directly to a class. SC/PH will be seeing their class parents.

## **How long do you expect this situation to continue?**

School funding will inform this. The budget is so tight. The school facing every more challenges with SEN/behaviour and there just isn't enough funding. As a school we want to be innovative and trailblazing, but teaching is our priority. We need to make sure all children will get what they need but it's tougher.

## **Newsletter Feedback**

All class reps felt it was easier to load, easier to read and much improved.

## **Drama/maths programmes funding**

**Parents understanding is that Hobgoblin and my Maths accounts were cancelled due to lack of money. Couldn't school ask for a one off payment and not trouble to children with such problems?**

Hobgoblin Theatre has ceased trading. It was a travelling theatre company who would come into school to give drama productions. School has looked for alternatives but there doesn't seem to be anything out there. One year group have got Chertsey Museum coming into school.

It was suggested that parents who work in the arts might be able to find alternative. Perhaps a set for each year group on their current topic.

LM to put in newsletter. Another suggestion was to approach drama students who might like to be given a project like this.

**JE to contact Kingston/Roeampton/St Marys University's drama departments**

The Infants' received £1000 from Tesco scheme. Councillor to share with JE what was sent out and the details.

Let parents know that decisions are made strategically not due to lack of money.

LM to put in the newsletter.

### **School Appeal Fund**

In the Infants' school all parents pay School Fund donation by DD. Doesn't say if £100 per child or family. School should remind parents of Standing Order.

**JE to look into sending our dedicated letter with Gift Aid form and DD/Standing Order form etc.**

LM does not want to keep asking parents for money.

Not about paying its about easing the burden. Perhaps at the new to Year 3 Parent Meeting give out hard copies of letter and DD mandate and in future send out separate to the information pack. Comms re fund will be sent in separate email.

### **Uniform**

**Why do joggers have to be blue and not black. Can they wear blue polo shirts as they do in the Infants'? What is policy regarding clothes bearing a political statement.**

In Junior school only white polo shirts. LM wanted school blue for joggers, but has conceded that navy blue are easier to find and has made that concession. We are trying to smarten up the PE uniform particularly as the children now come to school in it when they have PE. Generally we are finding PE uniform quite scruffy. Now only smart navy and royal blue joggers/leggings.

**LM to talk to Governors about a non - Uniform policy and whether it is appropriate.**

A councillor wanted to know what was meant by the question and what the political statement was. A councillor explained he was jewish and as the war continues in Gaza, coming to school seeing teachers wearing palestinian flag badges and scarves was unsettling for his children. Mums and dads, of course, can wear clothes of their choice outside school. Not the right thing in school. School to be neutral/safe so each child can go to a teacher and feel safe to speak to them. The school needs to think about the Russia/Ukraine situation and how it was handled.

We are a multicultural school, fundraising a difficult area with regard to political situations. Another councillor added that we want our children to become compassionate people so

fundraising good. Want children to be global citizens; the older children are very aware of what is happening in the world. Accepted that this kind of situation is tricky to navigate. Importantly, every child should feel safe here. Fundraising can take place outside of school for whichever charity parents/children wish. School can sign post.

### **More warning regarding changes to dates**

Yes, Meet the Teacher date got changed late in day. Something came up last minute. The school really tries not to do this, but being a busy school we want to invite parents in as much as possible and sometimes events clash. We do try to give notice. Occasionally, something will need to be changed for a legitimate reason.

### **How are children managed if parents can't come to events in school?**

LSA's will scoop up children and look after them as they did with OPAL Stay and Play.

### **AOB**

#### **Year 4 doing bikeability. Have year 5 been missed?**

Last year we found that some Year 5s had never ridden before which was difficult as many of the children were already quite proficient. Mrs Thompson signed the school up for 'Learn to Ride' for wobblers. Historically, Learn to Ride was never needed but the children needed to be of a certain standard to do Bikeability. Year 5 will do their course next year.

Some parents in year 4 completed forms but no comms around who had been selected and why. JE to investigate.

### **AOB**

Parents loved the OPAL day, it was wonderful to see the children playing on so many different things. One parents noticed that the tyres on the bikes in the MUGA were flat. Do school need parents to help with maintenance. Bikes had only been introduced but will now be checking them regularly. OPAL told the school that there would be wear and tear on equipment and to ask for more donations rather than try to fix. Zip line working and will need replacing. The slack lines around trees - frayed - not strong enough. Site team do a daily check of all the equipment. The big tyres check they are safe and have no sharp parts.

Next meeting Tuesday 14th