

Minutes from HCJS Parent Council meeting Wednesday 2nd May 2018

Present:

- Andy Leach (Headteacher)
- Sam Rogers (School Secretary)
- Tracey White (Gov Rep)
- Laura Richards-Gray (Chair)
- Verity Priest
- Claire Croft.
- Lindsay Baldwin.
- Sara Barnes.
- Kathy Smith
- Claire Abbott
- Kate Leale

Apologies:

- Kate Ashby.
- Sarah Birkby.
- Rob McLoughlin.
- Lisa Lamb.
- Gillian Holmes

Rob McLoughlin has confirmed that he will be standing down from the PC committee. He passed on his thanks to AL for setting up the PC Committee. Lisa Lamb is also standing down, and Kathy Smith left a while ago.

Minutes and Matters arising:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and no points were raised.
- The topic for consultation to be published in the newsletter; parents will be invited to comment on childcare arrangements after school, and feedback on the class DoJo.

Minutes and Matter arising.

- Changes to the newsletter. Year 3 parents commented that it is handy to have forthcoming diary dates.
- The Teacher's reading corner is proving to be very popular. There is some discussion as to whether a children's section should be introduced.
- The Year 5 girls are keen to do their own newsletter which may be included in the main school newsletter.

AL raised several items for discussion:

- **Smiggle pencil cases.** They are very cumbersome and take up a lot of desk space. They are also very expensive. Should they be banned/phased out from Sept 2018.
- **Water bottles.** They need to be stored at the side of the classroom and accessible during independent work.
- **Class Dojo.** This is being trialled for a month in Class 5H and 4I. It is an App on a mobile phone which awards points for good behaviour. Staffs using the App like it and the children have responded well to it. Staff need to ensure it does not take away from teaching time. If implemented across

the school, it will need to be explained to the parents. DoJo points can be translated into house points.

- **Haddenham Charter of rules** – Home/School agreement to be drawn up. This will form the basis of behaviour expectations in the school. There is some discussion as to whether the Red/Yellow card system will be removed.

Consultation Feedback.

- **Maths evening feedback:** In general, some very positive feedback was received. The evening was very well attended and parents commented on how useful it was to have practical experience. The evening will be repeated in Sept 2018.
- **Information evenings.** Parents have asked if there can be other information evenings. There is a possibility a Literacy evening will be held, although as this is such a big area it would need careful consideration as to what subjects were covered during the evening. Some ideas put forward were reading schemes, comprehension (understanding how the children are taught); spelling.
- **“What you were afraid to ask” evening** – some discussion as to whether this could be held, for the school to share their successes and ask the parents what else can be done?
- **Arts festival** – Very positive feedback received.
- **E-Safety evening.** This wasn't well attended despite being well publicised to parents. Some felt the time may have put working parents off. It was discussed that meetings for parents should be later than 6pm although this wasn't fair on the teachers. It was suggested that there should be a mix of times. Some PC Committee members who attended the evening felt it should have been aimed at Year 5&6. The evening will be held again in Sept 2018.

Word on the street.

- **After school clubs.** Parents felt that clubs continuing from one term to the next was a good idea. It was suggested that there should be more athletics for the children to take part in, perhaps as a lunchtime club/
- **Guitar lessons.** The new guitar teacher doesn't appear to be as popular as the last one.
- **Homework.** There are some inconsistencies with the Year 6 homework; 6P seem to always have a lot whereas the other Yea 6 class doesn't have as much. Both classes should be having the same. AL to look into this.
- **Year 3 technology.** There is some confusion over what technology can be used to take homework to school; e.g. can a child use a memory stick. It was felt that this needs to be communicated to parents.
- **Marble jar.** This is a class reward. AL awards marbles to each class for good behaviour. At the end of 6 weeks, the class with the most marbles will have a reward (games afternoon, watch a movie, bring in a cake).
- **Year 3 – After school care.** Some parents have asked if it is possible to be notified earlier in the term as to what clubs will be running, to enable them

to book WASPS. SR said this was possible, but only if the range of clubs available to the children is limited.

- **Year 3 Communication.** Parents are finding that their child/ren do not always take paperwork home. Although it is good to be independent, parents felt the Year 3 class in particular should be given more support especially in the autumn term.
- **School lunches.** Parents feel the quality of the meals has gone downhill. Wednesday in particular is not a popular day with the children. AL said he hasn't received any feedback from parents regarding this; SR reported that bookings are still high, and parents are being turned down due to the high numbers already having hot dinners.
- **Year 5.** Miss Hill's presence on the playground is greatly appreciated by parents.
- Parents in general are grateful to the help and support from the school office.
- **Year 5.** Parents are concerned about benchmarking children when they take the verbal and non-verbal tests. AL said that the results of the tests are passed onto parents in mid-term reports, which show the age related expectations.

Consultation topic for next meeting.

- After school childcare; feedback from use of class DoJo.

AOB.

- AL reported that WASPS are conducting a survey about after school care. Currently there is not much of a need for the service from Year 6&7. Happy Hedgehogs (St Marys School) is full and the Infant school are concerned that WASPS may go. AL reported that an external provider may be able to take the after school care on.
- AL reported on the building work happening around the school. 4 classrooms are being extended into the cloakrooms, and lockers are being installed for the children's belongings.

Next Meeting:

- 4th July 6.45pm – to be confirmed.