



## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Present:     Andy Leach  
              Sara Barnes (Chair)  
              Cassy Childs  
              Kate Leale  
              Lindsey Baldwin

Minutes taken by: Sam Rogers

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Gillian Holmes, Claire Abbott, Angie Goldsmith and Claire Croft.

Cassy Childs was welcomed on to the Parent Council. Cassy has also offered to be PTA Chair from September 2019.

### 2. Feedback on the WEDUC App

The overall feeling from feedback on the new app had been very positive. Parents were finding it much easier having all the school information in the same place. They had found it easy to install and very user friendly.

Sam Rogers confirmed that duplicate correspondence from the school office would only be sent out until the 15<sup>th</sup> February and then all communication with parents would be carried out via the app. Parents have been fully informed of this change.

One parent had asked whether the WEDUC calendar could be linked to the Google Calendar? SR has informed WEDUC of this request and they have confirmed that although this is not possible now, it is something that they are looking in to for the future.

One parent had expressed concern about the security and data privacy of the WEDUC app. SR had contacted WEDUC and spoken to them about their privacy policy. They confirmed that data is stored in a central, secure database. No data is shared with any third parties and it is encrypted so even the staff at WEDUC can't see it.

SR confirmed that any parents not wishing to download the app can access it via their web browser or alternatively register their current email address with the school office and they will send out an email communication instead.

### 3. Feedback on Class Dojo

Feedback had been received that there was a lack of consistency in the Dojo points allocated. Parents are unsure of the purpose of Dojo when the old house-point system is still in place.

Mr Leach confirmed that Dojo is a system introduced to reward positive behaviour and showcase achievement to parents on an adhoc basis. When a child does something extra special in school this can be shared instantly with their parents. He will go back to staff and request that a consistent approach is taken across the school.

Due to Mrs Flynn's absence, class 3F had only just started to take part in Class Dojo.

Parents requested that Dojo is updated regularly as it is upsetting for the children when they are verbally given a Dojo point but it is not uploaded for them to show their parents at home.

A parent has shown concern about the Privacy Policy for Class Dojo. AL is confident about the security as it is a platform used in many schools across the UK but he will go back to that parent personally to put her mind at rest.

### 4. Word on the Street

A request had been made for Mr Leach to set up a school **Instagram** account. He confirmed that there was no intention to do this due to the privacy and security issues involved. The school have stopped their use of Facebook for this very reason. Any photographs or news about the children is now communicated directly to primary carers (only) through the WEDUC app.

The **Arts Festival** was very popular last year. Mr Leach confirmed that there would be another one held next academic year. This year the school were concentrating on the Buggy Malone performance.

A concern had been raised about the **consistency of marking** across the school. Mr Leach takes this comment on board and will go back to staff with a request for greater consistency.

AL was disappointed with the feedback from one parent that the building and grounds need to be improved. He explained that a lot of work and money have gone into the **improvement of the school** over the past few years and he hoped that most parents could appreciate the challenges that improving an old building with large grounds demands. Parents are very welcome to set up a volunteer working party and approach AL to discuss this if they can see an area that they would like to help improve.

A parent had suggested that the PTA may want to help with the supply of outfits for **Dressing Up Days** in school. Often parents buy outfits for World Book Day or Viking day and could then donate the costume to be sold for the next year's event, raising money for PTA funds. CC was very interested in this idea and agreed to investigate it further. With the upcoming World Book Day, that may be a good time to ask parents for donations.

Feedback had been given on the school sports provider **Stenning Lee**. AL and Ben Smart, PE Coordinator work closely with Stenning Lee to decide on necessary sports provision and to assess the quality of coaching provided.

Concern had been raised about staff **supervision at school lunchtimes**. AL confirmed that the school had the required number of Midday Supervisors and the children were well supervised. There is not however, the staff capacity to check every child's lunchbox before they leave the dining hall. The children are encouraged to eat but not forced to eat. Any parents with concerns about their child's eating may approach the school on an individual basis and their child's food intake can be gently monitored.

Regarding the **hot meals**, there are still concerns about the quality of the food on some days. Some parents feel that the roast dinners are not well received and would prefer an alternative meal on a Wednesday. AL suggested that any parents unhappy with the roast dinners should contact the school office and they will in turn feed back to the kitchen.

There has recently been a significant amount of **staff absence** and parents are concerned that this was not communicated well to them. AL explained how difficult it is to keep parents up to date when he does not know himself when a teacher will be returning after illness or reasons beyond school control (e.g. Jury Service). He has endeavoured to communicate with parents as early as possible and to prioritise consistency for the children by covering classes with the same teacher rather than just employing various supply teachers. This comes at great cost to the school. We are fortunate in a 3 form entry school that there are other teachers in each year group who are working hard to plan lessons and provide support to the interim staff.

4P and 3F will have an alternative 'Open the Books' session once the staff are settled back in school.

Confirmation of the **Vomiting Policy** was requested. SR clarified Bucks County Council advice that children should not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

##### 5. Date of next meeting & next feedback topic

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place during the first half of the summer term 2019. The main feedback topic and a suitable date will be communicated in due course.

Meeting closed.