

## **Parent Council Meeting, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 2pm**

### **Attendees:**

Tracy Potter (Headteacher)

Julie Garrett

Rachel Anderson

Emma Hammacott

Anita Parham

Maria Smith

Matt Smith

Samantha Aitken

Kerrie Mills

### **Apologies**

None received

### **Agenda.**

No agenda set as it was so long since previous meeting

### **Minutes**

TP started by welcoming everybody, especially those who were new to the parent council. She re-iterated the purpose is to give parents a voice in the school. It is an opportunity to share any concerns or successes as well as sometimes an opportunity to consider new developments from a parental point of view.

TP did note that it is very informal and anyone is welcome.

It was also noted that there were no meetings last terms as TP was unable to identify a suitable time when she could guarantee being available at Bedenham with her new role. With the appointment of the new HoS (Head of School) at Holbrook leadership is now more settled and TP is able to distribute her time more evenly.

### **Federation**

One parent asked how things are developing with regards to the Federation and whether there would be many joint activities. TP explained that currently the main focus for the collaboration is around the staff. For example in the first few weeks of this term subject leaders from the two schools have got together to share ideas and consider whether resources can be shared as well as in developing action plans for future improvement / development. As time goes by it is envisaged that there will be increasing opportunities for pupils to work collaboratively though at this point it is definitely about professional development.

### **Class structure 2015/16**

Following a question from a parent TP noted that with pupil numbers across the school such as they are it is likely that there will need to be mixed age classes next year. There was some discussion about how these are organised but as TP noted ultimately it depends on the specific pupils rather than having a hard and fast rule.

### **School trips**

One parent noted that she felt there were less school trips currently being offered. TP said she's feed this back to the staff.

## **Swimming**

It was confirmed that swimming for Years 2 to 6 inclusive will again be taking place in the Summer term and due to sports funding there will again be no charge for transport.

## **Merits**

There seems to be some discrepancy about the number of merits being awarded in some classes compared with others. TP noted that in theory there should be four merits given out daily in each class and she would again remind the staff of this.

*Action: TP to remind staff about merits*

## **Behaviour**

It was acknowledged that generally speaking the 'golden days' policy works well for the majority of children as they have a clear goal to aim for whilst being allowed to have a 'blip' without it meaning they cannot gain a reward. There was some discussion that children whose behaviour is more challenging can appear to get rewarded when they have just one day of 'appropriate' behaviour. TP noted that whatever system is employed there needs to be an acceptance that there needs to be some adaptation to meet the needs of specific youngsters.

## **Friday assemblies**

One parent noted that during a recent 'Celebration assembly' there seemed to be several children popping in and out to for example the toilet. TP asked if there has been any improvement recently as she had asked all staff to NOT allow this to occur and ensure children have gone to the toilet in advance. Another parent acknowledged that there is a difference more recently.

There was also some discussion about the behaviour of particular parents in assembly. TP knew to what the parents were referring but unfortunately had not been informed until the individual had left the building!

## **Parking**

Generally there has been some improvement in parking but there are still some very inconsiderate parents - these are contacted regularly and the police informed if there are ongoing concerns / issues.

## **PE**

One parent asked why Year 3 / 4 have two lots of PE on a Wednesday. TP noted that this is due to the deployment of a specialist PE teacher who is coming to work alongside staff to improve their practice. This should only be for half a term.

## **School dinner monies**

It was noted that some parents seem to receive a text frequently due to 'no money' even though the child does have the money with them. TP commented that children are supposed to put their money in a box as they come into the classroom and then they electronically make their selections. Their selections are then automatically collated and Mrs Hurst simply checks the monies. It was noted that parents can pay in advance and Mrs Hurst will let them know when they are running out of credit. It became clear that some parents had not realised they could do this and that they had assumed that if payment was made in advance the children had to have school dinners everyday - TP assured them that the electronic system recognises when meals have or haven't been taken so monies can be carried forward theoretically over several weeks.

*Action: For office staff to text or send a letter to parents ensuring they understand the diner monies process*

## **School money system**

There is a 'button' on the bottom of the page which is often inaccessible that allows for part-payment. Parents would like to be able to pay a small amount each week using school money towards a bigger cost.

*Action: TP to ask School Money administrator whether this could be setup in future and trail with a couple of trips / payments*

**Stubbington meeting**

It was confirmed that the meeting was 6pm today for parents

The meeting closed at 3:00pm.

**Next meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm. Learning walk?**