

Parents' Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday 18 March 2019

Attendees: Mrs Edwards
Dawn Bellis
Clay Gibbons
Kylie Lowe
Tracy Roach
Sian Reading
Dee Aldens
Laura Draper
Hayley Sanders
Liz Loring

Apologies: Dharshni Dharma

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

2.0 Welfare

Question was raised about changes to Welfare in school. Mrs Edwards clarified that there are a number of Staff trained in First Aid on site, with a further 3 Staff due to be trained. The policies in relation to this have been updated. The School also has Staff members trained in Emergency First Aid, plus the administering of epi-pens. The Welfare Room is now also being used as a Nurture Room, a place where Pastoral Care can be offered along with holding any meetings should the situation arise for such privacy. It is a locked room when not in use due to the storage of medicines inside. All epi-pens and inhalers are now kept in each and every classroom, stored in a red bag easily accessible by the Class Teacher.

The School Nurse still visits St Andrews and does come in for training purposes as well. Mrs Anstiss remains in School and is now working on a Pastoral basis supporting the children.

Should a child who is unwell need to be collected, the necessary phone call will be made from the School Office where the child will wait accompanied and overseen by a Staff Member. No child is ever left unattended when feeling unwell.

The administering of medication is still in place, but the Parent must inform the Class Teacher as well as signing it into the Office. Signing of administering will be made. Any prescription medicines MUST have a label on or they cannot be administered to the Child.

3.0 TAs / SMSAs

Question was made over the sharing of TAs across the year groups and that at times there is no TA present in a classroom. TAs are generally deployed across KS1 and KS2 supporting phonics in KS1, delivering interventions and supporting in lessons.

Staff and TAs are all listed on the School website:
<http://standrewscofeprimary.co.uk/about/whoswho.php>

Consistency of the SMSAs was raised. SMSAs have been made aware of the new Traffic Light behaviour system which also operates during the lunch break.

4.0 Renaming of Mums / Dads Day In School

Suggestion was made to rename the individual Mums/Dads in School Day to Parent/Guardian in School to cater for all families and their circumstances. Alternative suggestion was made to offer 2-3 opportunities for Family Days throughout the year.

5.0 Intervention

A question was raised over the implementation of intervention and how it works at School. Should a Parent have any concerns, these can be raised at Parents Evenings, or alternatively by direct, private communication with your Child's Teacher via Dojo. Should a Teacher spot any signs of a Child requiring intervention, Parents will receive communication directly from the Teacher and School. SEN Children will already have paperwork and provisions in place for Parents Evening.

Interventions provided by external professionals will require parental consent first.

6.0 Uniform

Follow up was mentioned upon the previous meeting with the School Uniform Suppliers, and the quality of the uniform supplied. The Suppliers said they would look to change the range from which the Uniform is made, but it would be at a slight increase in price. They had initially changed the range to try to keep in line with existing prices. It is apparent however that there has been a consistent decline in quality and the need for Parents to replace various uniform items more frequently as a result. Should Parents be happy to accept a slight increase in costs the Suppliers will be happy to return to the original range which is of a higher quality. (Example given from them was £0.50 more for a school jumper/cardigan) Book bags were also discussed, and they plan to bring in a new version as an example which now has a twist mechanism to open and close it instead of Velcro.

7.0 KS1 Milk – Coolmilk

Once a child has reached 5 Years of age, milk is still available for delivery to the School, however at a cost to the Parents should a Child still wish to receive it.

Presently there are families who have paid for milk and their children are not receiving it, as children who have not paid for it are taking the milk unbeknown. Better monitoring of the distribution will be made at breaktime as the company providing the milk issue a named list of those who have made payment.

Should you wish to sign your child up to continue to receive milk once they are 5 Years old, you need to visit <https://customers.coolmilk.com/V2/register/>

There are options to pay by the term or the whole year available.

8.0 Reading Books

Presently, the reading books across the year groups are in the last stages of organisation and are being changed as and when. Some children are being given 3-4 books a week to read and look through. Mrs Edwards placed immense emphasis on the importance of reading and reading regularly as homework. Children should be able to change their books as often as they want to at a time convenient to their Teacher throughout the School day. This includes upon release from School should a Child forget to take their book to School in their bag. The Children are being encouraged to choose and swap their books themselves.

Mrs Edwards welcomes any form of book donations to the School and reiterates that volunteers are actively encouraged to come into the school to listen to the Children read throughout the week. (This does not necessarily need to be your Child's class that you volunteer for.)

9.0 Traffic Light Behaviour System – Dojo Updates

Query was made of the notification via Dojo of a Child's amber warning, however no notification made of a red warning. Mrs Edwards advised that all red warnings are logged in the behaviour folder against each Child's individual file. The purpose of the amber notification is being made for recording purposes electronically. Should a Child receive a red warning, Parents will be notified in person at the end of the School day or receive a telephone call directly.

10.0 Cars in Nursery Way

Once again attention is drawn to a number of drivers disobeying the School's Policy in driving down Nursery Way both mornings and afternoons, after a near miss being reported between a car and a child recently. There is also a noticeable increase in the number of vehicles parking in the residents garaged area halfway down Nursery Way and the shaded "no parking" area.

Mrs Edwards has had recent meeting with Councillor Simmonds in relation to cars driving down Nursery Way, the provision of Traffic Wardens and the legalities of the parking enforcements. Parking regulations come into effect from 8am in Nursery Way, with permits valid for resident holders only.

For the safety of everyone, please do not drive down Nursery Way at drop off and collection times.

The "Drop 'n Go" service is available each and every morning for KS2 Children. We have special permission for KS2 Children to be dropped off in the bus lane at the end of the alleyway whereby volunteers watch the Children walk down the alley in through the School gates.

Volunteers are always needed to help with the "Drop 'n Go" service which runs from 8.35am until 8.50am, ideally with 3 volunteers each morning: 1 standing at the main road ensuring the Children safely enter the alleyway, 1 by the garages at the end of the alleyway overseeing the Children and 1 outside the School gate monitoring the children safely walking into School.

If you think you may be able to spare 15 minutes once a week, please contact the School Office with your contact details: OFFICE@STANDREWSUXBRIDGE.ORG.UK

11.0 Curriculum

Mrs Edwards asked if there was any feedback regarding the curriculum and changes being made to the way homework is issued with POWer projects. Positive response was given to the project each class has recently been set and the option of the Children being able to choose which tasks they wish to complete, and how they want to complete it. A number of the projects will be on display for the forth coming Parents' Evening. Again, a strong emphasis is being made on reading with each Child's comprehension being demonstrated either through highlighting or underlining of work in class.

The curriculum plans are all available for viewing for the autumn term for each class on the School website: <http://standrewscofeprimary.co.uk/school-life/curriculum.php>

12.0 AOB

Dawn made thanks to all for their help and support with the recent Coffee Morning, raising £230 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Date for the next School Social Tea/Coffee AFTERNOON will be:

Friday 15th November - Open to all Parents, Carers, Grandparents picking up that day.

(Social Tea/Coffee events will alternate between mornings and afternoons each term to try to accommodate as many people as possible.)

Next Meeting – Monday 18th November at 2pm