**Parents’ Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 17th March 2021**

**Attendees:** Mrs Dallibar

Dawn Bellis

Sian Reading

Hayley Sanders

Dharshni Piratheepan

Liz Loring

**Apologies:** Clay Gibbons, Kylie Lowe, Tracy Roach, Dee Aldons, Laura Draper

1. **Welcome Back and Apologies**
2. **Children During the Lockdown Period**

One issue that had come to light involved the children who had been coming to school during lockdown, and the lack of reading being recorded through school in the record books. Mrs Astill has today sent out a letter to all Parents both via Dojo and ParentPay with regards to an updating of the current reading scheme to a new system called Phonic Phases. The phonics assessments have already started taking place in the classes with a view to restructuring groups within their relevant class bubbles. The reading of own material at home continues to be widely encouraged to assist the children in engaging in reading.

The school has been a member of both English Hubs and Maths Hubs for Schools since 2019, schemes which are supported and funded by the DfE.

1. **Update and Thanks from Mrs Dallibar**

Mrs Dallibar gave thanks to the Parents’ Council for their support and communication/connections with other Parents both throughout the lockdown and the return to school. In the first week returning, there was a 96% attendance rate for the children. This is really positive for the school, with the majority of children very much pleased to be back on site.

1. **Plans in Moving Forwards**

Lots of positive feedback has been received after the first week returning to school. This was a week focusing on wellbeing and mental health with children partaking in activities outside, including gardening. The gardening will continue for the children as the seeds they have planted will need nurturing. Lots of discussions are also being had about the children reconnecting within their classes.

The “Mile A Day Challenge” was suggested as an option. This would really only be practical on the playground due to the time of year and the condition of the field. Mrs Dallibar advised that Mrs Calder has been looking into the possibility of track provision for the field through Sports Premium.

Most children appear keen and ready for learning upon their return. Pastoral support is available and in place for the children should it be needed. Staff are consciously listening to the children chatting, listening for any issues or concerns. They have a greater opportunity for doing this during Golden Time when the children are allowed to play games. The staff are working towards a balance of routine, consistency but with opportunities for activities also.

For the time being, PE will remain once a week with the children being encouraged to be active and involved in other activities throughout the course of the week. Hopefully some of these activities will be able to be outside when possible. It is weather dependant, as the hall is being used by TAs for the extra space.

Breakfast Club has continued and is going very well. Subject to Governmental update, after school clubs and Get Active may be able to resume in the summer term.

**5.0 AOB**

Year 6 Trip Update

At present, there is no further news on this years’ trip for the year 6 children.

Residential trips will potentially be permitted from 17th May 2021, however this is

subject to reconfirmation from the Government. Until such time, there is no

guarantee on the insurance should the trip be cancelled prior to the Government’s final

decision and advice.

Mr Astill will be asked to relay this to the year 6 parents via Dojo as it has been said

that the majority of the year 6 class still want to go ahead with the trip.

Changes within School

As stated in last weeks’ newsletter, both Mrs Box and Miss Smith will be leaving the

School Office at the end of this term. New posts have been advertised, whereby the

School is wanting to create a consistent approach in administration for both staff and

parents at front of house. One new person has been appointed full time to run the School Office now.

The question has been asked “what wouldn’t you change post covid?” to which there

were 2 main responses:

* Not stopping the one way system at pick up time
* Keep staff in the car park in the mornings and pick up time

The one way system has worked very well, and feedback shows that parents and children do enjoy the meeting and greeting in the mornings and afternoons.

Accidents/Incidents during the School Day

Mrs Dallibar reconfirmed that it is only head injuries that parents get notification of, as per school policy. Should children show signs of anything persistent (e.g. incidents at the same time of day, any physical markings in a constant area of the body) then parents are encouraged to Dojo their childs’ Teacher. Reassurance was also made by Mrs Dallibar that Risk Assessments are in place where both necessary and applicable.

Attention was also drawn to the fact there is a procedure and hierarchy in place with regards to points of contact starting with the childs’ Teacher, Head of that particular area of school, Deputy Head and Head Teacher.

Sore Hands

Some children are returning home with red, sore hands from hand washing/gel using. Whilst this is obviously very much an important part of fighting Covid at the moment, Mrs Dallibar said that children are entitled to bring in their own hand gel/cream should it be more suitable for their skin or any medical skin condition they may have. These can be kept in the shoe boxes for the children who are in Key Stage 2.

From September

Both Mrs Dallibar and the Parents’ Council would like the school Drop ‘n Go system back up and running every morning. This is a scheme not new to the school but sadly numbers of volunteers have deteriorated and it has since died off. The system runs 0835-0850 offering parents/carers of KS2 children the option of stopping in the Bus Lane at the end of the alley adjacent to St Andrews Church to drop their children off in the mornings. Three volunteers are needed each day: 1 to stand at the top of the alley by the bus lane to make sure the children walk down the alley, 1 at the bottom of the alley to ensure the children get to the school gates and 1 at the school gates. Yellow jackets have been worn in the past so these people are easily identifiable for the children.

Previously volunteers offered 1, maybe 2 mornings a week and a very simple rota was in place whereby naturally situations arise and people may wish to swap days around as and when necessary.

The Walking Bus is also another way of enabling the children to walk safely to school potentially reducing the volume of traffic around the school. This also previously used to run as part of “The Walk to School - WOW” scheme operated by Living Streets and children would receive badges termly for their participation. Again 2 volunteers would meet on Whitehall Road by the park entrance, leaving at 0835 prompt with the children who would all have yellow jackets so easily identifiable as part of “the bus”. The route would walk them safely through the park, up to Nursery Waye in pairs and into School.

Every so often when the WOW scheme ran a national promotion, the whole school would be encouraged to meet in the park at 0830 and walk collectively to school – along with the local Mayor who would join us for publicity. The children who have experienced this loved it with their friends, it would be absolutely wonderful if we could get these schemes up and running in September. It would promote not only road safety and awareness for the children, but the environmental impact of walking whilst reducing the traffic immediately local to the school.

Anybody interested in assisting in anyway in either of these schemes, then please contact Dawn Bellis, email [dawn@evolutionelectrics.co.uk](mailto:dawn@evolutionelectrics.co.uk) or your Parents’ Council Class Representative. The Parents’ Council also have a post box on the front wall, adjacent to the School Office for communication.

1. **Next Meeting**

Monday 10th May - TBC