

Parent Council Minutes – 09/12/2022

Welcome and thank you for attending. Agenda passed around for parents to refer to.

Matters of Moment

Mrs Holman firstly explained the issues of our heating in school as some parents had mentioned this. Some areas are heated and some are still requiring tweaking as since a new boiler has been installed, the school has been having problems which will hopefully be sorted soon. Classrooms without heat have electric heaters.

PTA Christmas presents have been very successful. Members in attendance from the PTA confirmed that so far 650 presents had been issued on the first day and a further 500 on the second day. Presents have been left with Mrs Dutch for those children that had paid but not chosen their present due to sickness / absence so they do not miss out.

Phonics and Early Reading

The group were then treated to a talk by Mrs Woods and later joined by Miss Pye regarding phonics and books in the school environment. Soundwrite books are being used and matched with the capabilities of the children and their level of reading. Younger children are being taught the different sounds that letters make when put together. Year R concentrate on the single sounding books and Year 1 move on to the harder digraphs involved in reading. Any gaps are quickly recognised and then new books are provided to fill those gaps. Groups then move on to understanding the books and then asked to evidence the meanings from the text and therefore understanding the story. The books are not being used with the colours on the spine of each book as these are immaterial now. It was emphasised that picture books are still good tools to use as they raise the confidence in children for reading.

Parents can often be frustrated thinking their child/children should be on a higher level of book and that their books should be changed quicker. It was thought that by possibly placing a sticker on their bookmark to say why their book wasn't changed yet, this would help parents understand. Member of the group who is a Headteacher of another primary school raised this idea and promised to email over their idea that they use in their school. Mrs Woods also emphasised that it is still good for children to have stories read to them in class as they can then recognise which books they would like to read from their class book corner. Another idea that was suggested was to put a 60 second film on Twitter, possibly done by a child, regarding book changes. For free reading, there is a list of recommended books on our website. We will promote these in our newsletter and reading letter again.

There is a mobile library that visits Lancet Lane on each alternate Thursday afternoons from 3.50pm to 4.20pm (blue route). We will promote on our newsletter so parents are aware of this great free resource. **MR JOHNSON TO INVESTIGATE A BORROWING SERVICE WITH ANY LOCAL MAIN LIBRARIES.**

Other matters from Council / their class groups:

Transition / moving up in September each year worries - What would help with transition of pupils moving from year to year in July/September? We discussed some options and through a guide to what will happen was suggested for both times of the year for parents and not children. A 10 minute presentation was also suggested from the year group teachers and a sheet outlining swimming days and PE days, expectations eg reading records for that year group and upload this guide to our website. The current session was ok but really parents wanted to know how to help, what to do and just meet the teachers, not necessarily see in the classrooms.

Finally a question surrounding school dinners on SchoolMoney was raised. Parents used to like the old ParentPay system as it showed a menu each day to choose from. Unfortunately, this option is not available on SchoolMoney but the office email parents at the start of each term with the menu options, providing clear dates at the bottom of each sheet and this is also available on our website. We will feed this back to the company as they may make improvements later on.

Parents have also requested if the Absent email could have an automatic response e.g. thank you for your message kind of response. **Our office manager will look into this to reassure parents.**

The meeting was brought to a close as the time was 3.25pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday 3 February 2023, 2.15 refreshments for 2.30pm meeting.