



Parent Council Minutes – 13/10/2023

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

The parent meeting was chaired by Trevor North, Headteacher of the school and included attendance by Mrs Ingrid Dutch and Mr Sean Johnson.

Mr North firstly welcomed the new parents of the Council and asked the parents to introduce themselves. Read out what is expected of the new parents and discussed what they need to do and what not to deal with as their role as Class Parent Councillor. Email of Terms of being a Parent Councillor to go to this years representatives for signature.

Mr North progressed to explain what the school would be looking to do in the future. The potential of enlarging projects that children are and get involved in will be looked at to provide more focus on the local community being involved. For example, when the children are looking out baking as part of their DT curriculum, it would be nice to cook items to provide for the local old peoples care homes rather than just keeping this in class. This would be a great idea for the children to be able to have more focus and gain more fulfilment. The logistics of this is being looked in to and any further information on this will be advised in the future.

We are looking to build a curriculum which could be for any school. Focus is currently on school trips, again possibly looking to hire a room at the Maidstone museum to have a 'pop up' shop and sell items that the children are making as part of a school project. The teachers would be looking to see a way of being able to check the children's understanding of the subject matter in hand.

Mr North introduced the subject of Forest Schools idea. Opal play will be continuing but is still in early days of developing.

A request to the parents was to encourage any parents with a skill or profession to be invited in to school and speak with the children. Please contact Sean Johnson via the school office if interested.

The parents made a request for another Phonics workshop to be held for year 1. Parents find these a real help when assisting their children at home. Workshops for each year group would be welcomed as the children go through different expectation and learning as they move through the year groups. A Maths workshop would also prove beneficial and even any other subjects.

A request to spend time with the children on Sports Days, even sitting for lunch with them at the time. Ideas welcomed to see if logistically possible to do this.

As children move through the Key Stages, parents would also welcome a guidance with regards to Internet Safety. Children are exposed to a lot of internet matters and parents are getting worried about them and would welcome a guide on this.

Homework was raised. Currently children are not set homework but some parents raised concern on this as once the children move from Primary School level and go to secondary education, the volume of homework is increased ten-fold. Any ideas on this please?

After school activity clubs – raised as being a noticeable difference from KS1 to KS2 but is there anything we can do with regards to choosing who gets a space. Parents recognise that there are limited spaces but get frustrated when they have applied for a few and do not get any.

Positive feedback was received regarding how the school values are being used within classrooms instead of the ladder.

Great notice to parents addressing the matter of recent events to watch out for the strangers present in our local community.

More structured planning of paying for trips due over the course of the year would be great so parents are aware of costs involved per year group at the beginning of the year.

Time ran out for further questions unfortunately. These will be viewed by the SLT team in due course.

Meeting finished at 3.15pm. Next meeting scheduled for Friday 8th December 2023