

Parents' Council

Thursday 14 October @ 7pm

Agenda

Attendees	Apologies
Katherine Ramsden - Acorn Sylwia Duniec – Conkers Sophia Matthew – Catkins Hannah Rourke – Hawthorn Abhijeet Singh – Hawthorn Kimberly Preston – Holly Katherine Ramsden – Laurel Simon Henry – Douglas Emma Turland –Pine Danielle Read – Spruce Kelly Houltyby - Apple Kimberly Preston – Cherry Shuchi Agarwal – Acer Danielle Read – Cedar Kirsty Berry – Ash Francesca Mills – Beech Sonella Hessling – Beech Becky Moran – Silver Birch Mrs Jane Le Poidevin Miss Steff Merrick Mrs Katy Brown Miss Charlotte Withers Mrs Sonia Aldridge	Sathish Panguluru

No	Item	Owner
1	Welcome	JLP
	Lovely to see everyone! New members of the parent council introduced themselves to the group!	
2	Minutes of the last meeting (summer 21)	JLP
	We have introduced SLT through photos on the newsletter. We shall do the same for other members of staff later on. Homework letters have been sent out and books (comprehension) will be sent out next week. Maths homework is currently being explored, especially as it is the Year of Maths. Certificates wanted from Reception parents last time. New leaf system introduced by KB with an explanation. The question was can there be an explanation on the newsletter to explain to parents? KB to do this.	



	<p>SA spoke about scooters and bikes in the bike-sheds. Plans are in place to move them. Kelly said there's not enough room for bikes as a lot of scooters are being used. SA to take this on.</p> <p>Show and Tell – we do not have time to do this and things should not be brought in from home because of Covid etc. SM said that it is not used in Reception. Kimberley said it had come up in WhatsApp this morning. She told other parents that it had been a 'no' before from Parent Council previously. Maybe new staff are not aware of this?</p> <p>Swimming is sorted. Diamond Jubilee Centre have gone to 2-week blocks so that is booked from Years 5, 4 and 3. Moving forward it should then just be Year 3. Booked for Spring term. Kelly asked can parents be given quite a bit of notice as to when swimming is because they will have to pay for it? Danielle asked if payment can be spread across the term? SA said we can do this. A 'normal accommodation'! If any parents are having financial difficulties they should let us know so that we can support them. We can always spread payments for parents who are struggling.</p> <p>Catching up on other events – managed the Year 6 residential last year. We have them booked for this year, albeit slightly shorter than usual. Anything is better than nothing!</p> <p>School lunches – chicken wraps are back and the children are delighted! SA says MDS are concerned that children are not having salad. So it is being put on plates rather than children being asked.</p> <p>Emma – snacks. Fruit snacks etc. Children are saying there is not enough fruit to go around. JLP says there has been a supply issue. Policy is that we provide fruit across the school.</p> <p>Hannah – asked if we can know what is in the wraps so they can advise children what is in them. SA it is majority chicken and seasoning! There seems to be an aversion to salad!</p> <p>Fran – chicken wraps. Children are pleased they are back, but it is the size of the portions they are concerned about. The amount of chicken in the wrap is not enough. Do children in Year 6 get more? SA and JLP said the children get the same amount. SA said the other options are bigger because there are other things with the options. Now salad is put on the plates compulsorily so that the children eat more.</p> <p>Kirsty – other parents (3) say their children have been asked which year groups they are in and whether they get more if they are in Years 5 and 6?</p> <p>Kelly – Can we challenge the caterers about the blue option? SA – the blue option is only the chicken. It has never been anything else. It's the product, and not a supply issue.</p> <p>Kimberley – her daughter loves the blue option. Has never been concerned about portion size.</p> <p>SA to take things back to the kitchen.</p>	
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	<p>My parentlite and other apps – we have been working with parents to improve communications and make them streamlined. We have tried things along the way and parents have been supported. SA – we are not using Teachers2parents unless it is for the Orchard. Teachers2parents was unable to cope with the ‘traffic’ during covid issues. This is why we have made changes.</p> <p>In school, we use My parentlite – you can update details (good for split-families too). Updates are all online rather than on paper. Other schools use SIMs. We are using it, so it made sense to have one centralised system with parent details on. After having to contact a lot of parents through the pandemic, it became obvious that we did not have up-to-date information. So, we decided to streamline the communication service. There have been some teething issues but it is because a lot of parents did not accept the invitations. We have also moved to emails instead of texts which has caused a lot of upset! But it is parental choice if they want to be included in communication (in terms of the second point of call). SA we have given an information overload lately! Text messages will still be used in emergency situations. Pay360 is the app for paying for everything now. Emma – managed to use it today. It was fine to navigate. Simon Pay360 is sorted but SchoolNews app? SA this is where things are updated such as blogs, the newsletter etc.</p> <p>Shuchi – feedback on Pay360. Used to use it at her old school. It is easy to use and glad they use it. Communication – doesn't have a sign in for Parent Portal. Or a starter guide for a parent. They do not know where to go for information. Not getting the full picture of what logins to use. There may be other parents in the same boat. It is not very welcoming for new starters. JLP we will endeavour to look into this. Something that hasn't been on our radar. We do this for Reception parents but not as much for new starters in the rest of the school.</p> <p>Parents Evenings – JLP – they will be virtual in the Autumn term. Book look opportunities will come in the Spring when we do class assemblies. There will be 3 so each class will be allocated a day.</p>	
3	Start of the Year	JLP
	<p>Manor Adventure – Sonella – parents commented that they loved it! Breakfast and the maze was the highlight! JLP – there were a lot of tired children this morning! Sonella wants to pass on thanks to the Year 5 teachers.</p> <p>Emma – a few people have mentioned Covid – use of facemasks. There are not enough people using them and they cannot be enforced. Some schools in the area are still doing staggered times etc. JLP – in the first 4 weeks of term, we had 34 cases including 8 staff. We had an ‘outbreak’ in Year 6. One phone call from public health asking why people were isolating when they had a positive LFT not PCR. Lots of cases have been linked to secondary schools (siblings). We are surprised with how few</p>	



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	<p>cases we have had. The government are saying we don't have to do things, and we cannot fight this. It is about responding to the situation as it happens (staff wearing masks in communal areas when cases are high). Currently we are quite low in cases. If cases go up, we may have the power to make changes. Currently there is no reason to do this. We can only make recommendations. Emma – you've all done an incredible job so she wears a mask because we asked parents to. It also keeps everyone safer.</p> <p>Hannah – we had a positive case in the household. The advice was the right thing in terms of asking families to isolate (son later tested positive).</p> <p>For Year 1, would it be possible to pick up from the Reception way as it may split the traffic up on the playground? JLP – we can definitely do that and suggest it in the newsletter.</p>	
4	Parking	JLP
	<p>Kelly – update. Parents are still parking badly. Children are well-behaved. Last year, we had a sub-committee to discuss keeping children safe outside of the school gates. From that, we went to the council to ask for help with repainting the road, signage etc. It was slow to get responses. Nothing has happened yet apart from what the school has done. Child-sized signs put out in key areas outside of the school. They are coming back but the trolleys got broken! SA – they should be back out by half term.</p> <p>Kelly – we have decided to do LivingStreets – a charity to supply us with our own website and we are supported by other groups across the UK. It encourages children to walk to school. It is not quite ready to launch, but will be soon. A funding issue at the minute but should be ready to go back to it soon.</p>	
5	Extra-Curricular Activities	JLP
	<p>Kelly – a couple of occasions with last minute cancellations. Not always told on time. Do we have provision to hold children in case children cannot be picked up? JLP not at the minute as the Orchard is currently full.</p> <p>Danielle – thank you for doing the clubs and running them etc. The booking system worked well. Notifications went out for this term about places but some parents say they have not heard yet. SA lots of clubs were over-subscribed. But what has happened is that waiting-list places have been allocated for next term. We are trying to make sure that every child has access to a club this year. SA to double-check.</p> <p>Fran – cancelled club. Boardgames club. A text message sent out at 12.55. Can it always be a text? SA emergency situations like that would always go out on text. Emails for less urgent things such as changed PE days would be sent the week before.</p> <p>Katherine – very positive. Is there a plan to do anything for reception? JLP – if we do, it will be the summer term.</p> <p>Kirsty – rotakids club can we do it? JLP – give us a chance!</p> <p>Emma – Imagineering has been well-received.</p>	
6	Suggestions for improvements from parents	All



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	<p>Year 6 Haven't had anything from parents apart from talk on communication. Emma – wants clarification on the reading diaries. When to bring them back in (daily, weekly etc).</p> <p>Year 5 Homework – concerned that others at different schools are getting more homework. JLP – email the teacher directly. We are not going to change our stance on homework. People don't realise that the pedestrian gate is open so the drive is busier. Pass on appreciation to Miss Key for good/effective communication with an issue.</p> <p>Year 4 Orchard – the booking system changed this week and existing bookings didn't copy over. But it shouldn't happen from now. The system comes up that there is an error if you try to go back and view previous bookings. SA – you should be able to see it. Instructions were sent out through Shai as to how to go back and check what you have booked. We went back to the provider and they said you can check the history. It is on the Orchard page of the website so hopefully it can be found there! Is there any scope to increase capacity? SA 50 is our maximum capacity! Parents are happy with the service they are provided with. JLP it has been refurbished and had TLC. But cannot increase the capacity yet!</p> <p>Year 3 One parent has asked if we can have a list again about names of who is in the class. First names of children for party lists and Christmas cards. JLP – yes. Ask class teachers. Really like the new rucksacks. They fit in the lockers. Can we have branded water bottles? Danielle – at her school it is a nightmare if they are not labelled. So probably not. Is it possible to have a crib sheet for the children – linked to earlier point about information to new parents? To have logins available in case we have virtual learning etc. SA – it would be a good idea. Good for new parents too. The website should be the single point of call to get information. Something we are aiming for. One parent said Harvest festival donations were great. We have our food banks – can we do anything else to help? Offered a van to transfer things. Where Years 2 and 3 go in, there's a lot of parents collecting at the same time. It blocks where Reception and Year 1 are trying to be.</p> <p>Sims ParentLite some parents not sure what the permissions are for? JLP it is where we keep data. So we need permission for the data to be stored. Some parents not sure what things such as Charaga are. SA to check about phone numbers not being visible on the system too.</p>	
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	<p>Year 2</p> <p>Year 3 coming out used to be from the door under the arch. Also, the door was left wide-open the other day.</p> <p>Mr Le Poidevin pass on positive comments about his food tech!</p> <p>Numberbots – not sure if it will get harder but it seems really easy. Is Mathsjam still a thing? It was harder. Times tables rockstars – can we still have access? JLP to check.</p> <p>SATs are back – concern over what's being caught up on when they have SATs to think about. Is the level of challenge there? JLP – Year 2 will have the phonics screen this term. Will go back to Year 2 about increasing the level of challenge.</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>Numberbots for Year 1 is absolutely amazing and they love it.</p> <p>Abjjeet said his child has been sick with Hand, Foot and Mouth – can I keep my child off? JLP – Children should be kept at home if they are poorly.</p> <p>Numberbots is brilliant. Homework letter sent out. Parents have requested whether they can be personalised per child? JLP – it's unrealistic at the minute. After the data-drop, parents will get a pupil profile which identifies what they need to work on next.</p> <p>We have less interaction with teachers this year compared to reception. JLP – it's understandable. Haven't had the same opportunities to meet and chat with parents.</p> <p>Thank you to Miss Withers for sending things through when children were isolating.</p> <p>Thank you for informing parents about the toilet situation. Has this improved? SA the toilets are always cleaned for when children arrive. There have been some limited improvements which were time-bound. We're not sure where to take it next. JLP – we are struggling with Reception, Year 1 and 2. It is an issue. We have done assemblies, individual talks from class teachers. We are not sure what more can be done to encourage correct use of toilets. We only send letters out like that when we need parents' help.</p> <p>Reception</p> <p>Some have asked about water consumption in the classroom. Concerns about children not drinking. Can they bring squash? JLP – they can have water that is naturally flavoured, but no squash. It is messy if spilt and not good for their teeth. Some parents are bringing squash. Can we have clarification sent out? SA – it is water or fruit-infused water or milk as that is the same at lunchtime. SM – lots of children have competitions to go and fill up! So they may be bringing full bottles home as they have been filled up. JLP – we do everything we can to encourage drinking water. We cannot monitor every child/sip!</p> <p>Sylvia was impressed with gathering communications! How does everyone do it? JLP – we share your email address with your class and</p>	
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	<p>they are encouraged to contact you with any issues. Danielle – some year groups have facebook groups etc. On the playground, I chat to other parents too.</p> <p>Abhijeet – is vitamin c tablet allowed? It looks like squash but it is not squash! You cannot distinguish between the two. JLP – I will get back to you!</p> <p>Becky – wondered whether people can know what they can feedback to parent councillors. It may be helpful. JLP – we can do a summary of key topics discussed in the year.</p> <p>Sophia – whatsapp groups too.</p> <p>Hannah – useful to have a lanyard to say you are a member of parent council? So other parents can recognise you and speak to you. JLP – I like that idea!</p> <p>Fran – new parents have not had the 'normal new'. A few years ago we did 'what to expect' in each year. Written by parents. Is this something we can do again? Is there a pack we can give out? JLP – we have a school prospectus which everyone has access to. We have done powerpoints to introduce teachers. There are lots of youtube videos (not used recently because of being out of home learning). Fran – do people know about the youtube channel? JLP – we did virtual tours etc so most people will know. It is harder to build relationships especially with Year 1 and Reception parents. JLP we will check the old packs for accuracy.</p> <p>Kelly – if you have a facebook/whatsapp group perhaps organise a 'girls' night' to try and feel a bit more in the community.</p>	
7	AOB	All
	None.	

** Actions for School staff

** Questions from parents

** Answers