

Parent Council – Junior School – 5th December 2018

Present

Rob Morrissey (Head Teacher)

Jane McArdle (Darwin)

Jo Garland (Galileo)

Sarah Kandola (Curie)

Laura Guy (Hawking)

Sarah Forbes (Anning)

Susan Beale-Burchell (Edison)

Wendy Molloy (Einstein)

Pam Price (Chair of Governors)

Renata Riach (School Cook)

Apologies

Helen Vyakarnaram (Hawking)

Amanda Berry (Galileo)

Emma Orlinski (Newton)

Mr Morrissey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Catering

Mrs Riach noted that it has been a good term for attendance. The Welcome lunch had 59 new parents, and they had good feedback from the event.

19th October: #yellow - mental health day. Not a fundraiser, but children offered a hashtag biscuit

25th October: Bonfire lunch; 8th November: Diwali lunch - 207 children attended.

16th November: Children in Need - not a fundraiser, but children offered a Pudsey cookie

Upcoming: 13th December: Xmas lunch, coinciding with Christmas Jumper Day. Some queries regarding if the Christmas Hats were happening as well, and Mr Morrissey confirmed it was. It was discussed that not all parents had been informed of this - Mr Morrissey said he would inform everyone.

Year 5 parents asked question about menus. When choosing in advance, the menu on ParentPay is not always correct. If the children are one of the later ones in, then their option is not always available, and that sandwiches run out. Mrs Riach noted that they have autonomy to change the menu - all schools are able to do this. However, the menu presented to the children at the start of the day is always correct. Query if there is a way to update parent pay so that that weeks menu is correct? Mrs Riach requested the name of the year 5 child so she could speak direct to them. Mrs Riach noted that there was always a "alternate" option if the children asked.

Year 5 rep thanked Mrs Riach for taking into account new dietary needs of one of the children.

Mrs Riach also noted that there is a vacancy in the kitchen for 2 hours a day, 5 days per week, and asked the class reps to post this on relevant class Facebook pages.

Minutes of previous meeting on Website

<http://www.stalphege.solihull.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ParentCouncilMinutesWednesday3rdOctober2018.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3nKmFl-RKCCrCftYLvIoYPXgOj5o6C4KhtV9a7rtOImHUG48BpqMZ7Q8>

Review of previous minutes: Mr Morrissey confirmed that St Alphege did take part in the regional schools biathlon finals in Nuneaton. The St Alphege boys came 3rd, and St Alphege girls came 2nd. St. Alphege School's exemplary behaviour was commented upon.

Update on parking: Mr Morrissey and Governors have spoken to various people/ establishments (police/ parents/ children/ school council, 6th form college) since the last meeting. The parking wardens/police will take imminent action, and send out someone to check on parking situation on double lines. If anyone is parked on double yellow lines and is deemed to be wilfully obstructing, then the police will take a photo of the offenders car with a hand-held device, and a parking fine will come through the post. Parent reps asked if we should post this on relevant class Facebook pages, and Mr Morrissey requested us to do so.

Staff have spoken to children about the parking situation as well, and they have come up with ideas - all about educating people to think that it is not OK to park on double yellows. Possibility of child-led action, with them going out in high-vis jackets handing out leaflets requesting people not to park illegally. Or having the children make leaflets/posters written from a child's perspective.

It was noted that even people who have been in meetings discussing this (i.e. previous parent reps) have been seen parking on the double yellows, so feel like the information is being wilfully ignored. Noted that in other schools, photos of persistent parking offender's cars have been taken and put on Facebook (with registration plate blanked) - could be a possible option.

Apparently some parents/ grandparents have made complaints to Mr Morrissey about the new pick-up regime, and that it makes parking difficult for them. Discussed about making a parent-led focus group - one of the year 4 parents is a councillor and may be able to help out. Mr Morrissey suggested that this needs to be tackled from many angles, and all help is welcome. The Governors have been tasked with taking a number of paths forward.

Also discussed parking in the St Alphege school carpark - this is not allowed, but many people park in the school car park.

It was noted that there is a child in Capellas with a serious medical condition - the nursery has commented that they have serious concerns that an ambulance may not be able to get to them in time with the current flagrant disregard of parking rules.

Hope is that collectively, we can do something.

Year 3 reps

Request for Christmas collection for Anning. Anning parent rep was just about to distribute letters.

Lost property: noted that a Year 3 pupil had lost two jumpers within first week of school. However, it is NOT easy for parents to check the lost property box as the office staff will not allow entry. Mr. Morrissey said that parents are not allowed in school for safeguarding reasons, but will speak to office staff to allow people in to look for lost items.

Carol concert - needs some more promotion - Mr Morrissey will send out a reminder.

Year 4 reps

Some parents are curious over policy on which charities collections are made for. There was a query as to why no event was made of Children In Need. Mr Morrissey said that they continually review which charities to support, and were keen to assist with local charities and certain main charities such as the Christmas Shoebox appeal. Mr Morrissey noted that they had received a complaint about the Christmas Shoebox appeal, and these things are being continually reviewed. Mr Morrissey commented that usually a charity event was also discussed in class as to why a collection was being made, i.e. Mental Health Awareness Day. Noted that these days, the greatest need is related to anxiety in children and they had put various measures into place, such as Mindfulness, to help address this.

Year 5 reps

Request was made by a year 5 parent that if a SEALS meeting has to be postponed, could they have as much notice as possible, as it causes anxiety for the children. Cancellation of sessions is always a last resort. Year 3 parent rep suggested that horticultural therapy could be a good option for children's wellbeing and will discuss with Mr Morrissey in more detail.

Mr Morrissey was asked if the Galileo parents evening was likely to happen this term. Mr Morrissey commented that he was unsure at the moment, but will keep parents/careers informed of developments.

Year 6 reps

Discussed that the change to classes (2, rather than 3), seemed to be working out OK, despite early resistance. Now that there are 2 classes, there is additional support staff meaning that the student:teacher ratio is actually better.

AOB

FSAS were asked how the Xmas Bazaar had gone. It was noted that it was a success, but there was a woeful lack of parent support in terms of volunteering and helping at these events - just the same 15-20 people helping out, and it was very difficult. The funds raised by FSAS helped ALL children, so it would be good if parents could help out more, particularly those who are in the earlier years.

Mr Morrissey commented that a hockey/netball after school club may start up in the Spring Term.

Mr Morrissey thanked FSAS for all of their great work, and commented that he is continually grateful for parent support.