

Parent Council – Junior School – 22nd May 2019

Present

Rob Morrissey (Head Teacher)

Emma Orlinski (Newton)

Sharan Kandola (Curie)

Jo Garland (Galileo)

Sarah Forbes (Yr 3)

Wendy Molloy (Einstein)

Amanda Berry (Galileo)

Renata Riach (School cook)

Apologies

Helen Vyakarnaram (Hawking)

Jane McArdle (Darwin)

Laura Guy (Hawking)

Susan Beale-Burchell (Edison)

Pam Price (Governor)

Mr Morrissey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Catering

Mrs Riach noted that it has been a good term for attendance. Easter lunch was a success, as was the Feast of St Alphege. An ice-cream van was also present for the Feast of St Alphege, and ice lollies were brought to Yr 5 cricket.

Upcoming:

4th June onwards: Year 6 senior school meals prep. In advance of Yr 6 attending senior school, the catering team are providing a transition service where Yr 6 lunches will be more like they would have at senior school, so as to prepare the students. Yr 6 only will have an additional choice of meal on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday until the end of term. Year 6 children and parents have been informed of this.

2nd July: Yr 2 visit and school meal. Helen will also be coming up from infants so that there is a familiar face.

4th July: Independence Day lunch.

Discussion around menus. Yr 5 reps noted that requests had been made in previous meetings to have (1) the menu available at the front gate and (2) have the menu available in the school newsletter. Mr Morrissey commented that he had not progressed this as much as he had wished to. It was agreed that the menu will be posted near the gate at the start of each week. A compromise solution of having the menu emailed to parents through parent pay each term, rather than it going in the weekly newsletter, was made.

Discussed what happens if there are no food choices left that the children like – Yr 5 comment. Mrs Riach commented that there are a few meals “set aside” for this purpose, and these are then offered to the child as an option. Mrs Riach noted that they had just changed menus, and it had been difficult for them to judge how many of each meal to make as they couldn’t be certain of which would be the children’s favourites. Now that they have an idea of which meals are most popular, they will be able to cater for those choices accordingly.

Minutes of previous meeting on Website

<https://www.stalphege.solihull.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ParentCouncilMeetingMinutesWednesday3rApri2019.pdf>

Review of previous minutes.

Mr Morrissey confirmed that Governors indicated polo shirts will not be allowed for boys in Juniors.

PE Provision: FootyBugs are no longer being used for PE classes. Important that the school is self-sustaining, and that the teachers are able to teach PE as well. It cannot be certain that sport funding will continue in future, so sustainability is critical. Children appreciate having the teachers do PE, as they know them and teaching assistants well – positive feedback has been received. PE has an equal standing with English/maths etc in terms of importance.

Footybugs still being used for lunchtime – ball games, tag games. The school have requested a variety of coaching is done at lunchtimes and there is no fixed rota.

Year 3 reps

Charity week: Year 3 parents were a little confused for charity regarding how much “supplies” should be brought in (i.e. how many cakes/biscuits etc). It was suggested that this could be made clearer on the letter that is issued. There was praise from all at the meeting that the letter that was sent out prior to charity week was much more informative than previous years. Parents appreciated that a lot more focus was put on non-food related items such as games etc...

Year 4 reps

It was commented that on a few occasions the gate had been opened a little late, making it difficult for parents to make it to infants school in time for sibling drop-off.

Comments were made that some parents did not like their children to come home in PE kit. This was discussed around the table, and the conclusion was that we would all prefer our children to maximise the amount of PE time they had, rather than waste it getting changed. So the situation will remain as it is now.

It was noted that there were incidents of poor driving near the school gates – this had been reported to the office.

There was a query about school policies and that parents don't always see them. Mr Morrissey reminded all that the policies were on the website in a clear place, and had been sent by email to all parents.

Year 5 reps

No comments – catering comments already discussed.

Extremely positive feedback for the London trip. The children all had a fantastic time.

Year 6 reps

No comments

AOB

School gardening club, only 1 member of staff. So need to limit the amount of children that can go – perhaps do a rotation every term? Parent volunteers required. Will probably start in September.

Next year's term dates will be posted soon. An effort has been made to synchronise inset days in both junior and infant schools.

Attendance policy: As of September 2019, children that have unauthorised absence will be referred to the education enforcement at the LEA – every instance will be referred, and the LEA will determine if action should be taken (i.e. a fine).

Next parent council meeting on 3rd July 2019.