

Dear All,

Please find below the minutes from our Parent Council meeting last Friday 24 March 2023.

Thanks to Mr McGrath for his time and input and for encouraging us all to get the Parent Council up and running again. Also, thanks to our Parent Council reps, to all those that joined remotely, in person, and to those that raised agenda items.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break, and we look forward to continuing the conversations on the Parent Council.

Best wishes, Jemma (Mum to Finn in Year 2 and Eimear in Reception)

Shacklewell Parent Council meeting minutes - Friday 24 March 2023

Introduction

- Jemma (chair of the Parent Council) thanked parents for joining, and thanked school year reps. The remaining yr 4 rep vacancy was filled.
- Purpose of this meeting: this is a forum for whole-school issues, not those affecting individual children.
- Meeting process: year reps will gather ideas in advance of meetings which Jemma and Rory will discuss when setting the agenda.
- Rory welcomed everyone and said it was the most well attended meeting of this group they've had.
- For the time being meetings will be half-termly

Head teacher update

1. Staffing
 - a. Permanent staff recruited to classes 3S and Aqua. Gaps in recruitment have been caused by a general teacher shortage.
2. Medical
 - a. Nits: nit letters will be issued when needed
 - b. Chicken pox: cases in school seem to be declining.
 - c. Worms: seeking guidance on symptoms from Homerton Hospital with the help of a reception parent - which will be shared with parents
3. Social media use
 - a. Induction packs for parents now have an enhanced breakdown of consent for requesting their children are not included in school social media posts.
 - b. A recent PGL trip raised some concerns from parents about the amount of posts.
 - c. Families can speak to the school office if they have any questions.
 - d. Teachers will post on social media intermittently because they are using their personal devices and they have many other commitments.
4. Payment systems

- a. School is transitioning to the My Child at School system, with the majority of items already carried over. Parents are being encouraged to book school consultations through the app.
 - b. Using the new system will streamline the multiple office systems into one and allow clearer information to be shared with families.
 - c. Will be fully up and running in the next academic year.
 - d. Emails will still be sent out from the office when more detailed information needs to be shared.
5. School communication
- a. Will never be fully online as school has to meet the needs of its community, there will always have to be paper communications alongside emails, app updates etc. The school will continue to maintain a hybrid system.
 - b. Curriculum and homework information can now be found online.
 - c. Reception families would benefit from an introduction to where information can be accessed.
6. Lunch portions
- a. Early year portions being increased. All children have access to the salad bar - which is served to them by a member of staff
 - b. Burgers not coming back on the menu due to the quality.
7. School survey results
- a. 60 families responded with most saying they would recommend the school to others.
 - b. Some clarification work to be done on how behaviours such as bullying are labelled.

Road Safety

8. Jemma led a discussion about road safety near the school.
- a. Traffic lights at Palatine Road crossing needs to be made safer. Council has committed to installing a beep but not to change the sequence of the lights. Parents said they would communicate with council/TFL leaders and officials about this.
 - b. School Streets. Idling cars on Somerford Grove - parents should be reminded to drive and park responsibly during picking up and dropping off times. Conversations around this issue should be rolled under an environmental heading also, with parents reminded about the effects on air quality around the school. Could be included in school parent inductions.
 - c. School is reluctant to enforce the local School Street because of the risk to staff standing in the road and also a lack of staffing resources to do this properly. Parents recognised that the council should better enforce this policy.
 - d. Parents flagged poor and sometimes dangerous behaviour by car drivers, cyclists and e-scooter riders at crossings such as Princess May Road. Parents suggested an A10 Action Group could be formed to look at solutions.
 - e. Persistent littering around the school has been flagged to the council but remains a problem. Families were encouraged to use the Hackney Council - Report a problem app.

Timetables, after school provision and playground

9. KS2 children now allocated a day on the pitch per class. Friday is KS2 girls-only.
10. Equipment: a permanent outside storage area for quality equipment will be provided to prevent loss and damage.
11. KS1 playground should be used only in playtime - at school pick up the playground needs to be cleared quickly to allow after school clubs to have access, teachers cannot look after children once their carer has arrived.
12. Children in upper years split along gender in social settings, this is difficult to counter. PSHE will include gender roles in the curriculum after Easter for years 5 and 6.
13. After school clubs reduction was due to quality and reliability. Clubs will be larger next term; it was discussed to send out club information before registration - this has already been actioned - thank you
14. Some parents feel the variety has declined and questioned whether after school clubs are now just childcare - rather than enrichment.
15. Fit for sport: nursery and reception will be run separately to KS1 and KS2, however reception children can still attend after school clubs as normal. The office will also be told to answer the phone after 5 so parents can contact the school if needed.

Curriculum

16. Music: Will try to increase singing opportunities and acknowledge families were disappointed that KS2 didn't have a Christmas performance. Music is currently in KS2 one hour per week on 1 instrument. School are aiming for one instrument per year over KS2.
17. PE - Children are selected for competitive sporting groups by Coach Alex and Coach Gatti. Pupils are all given a fair chance of participating in a team sport, the coaches try and spread participation out evenly. Currently timetables are jam packed so there is no time to take part in a mile a day.
18. Classics - Mr. MGrath to discuss outside the PC
19. Spanish - schools priority is to get Reception pupils up to speed with English first before moving onto a second language.

Home Learning (homework)

20. The only homework pupils should be doing in KS1 and above: Reading books / spellings / timetables / maker mat - all of which can be found on the school website. Reception continues with their RWI worksheets and weekly story and/or RWI books.

Shacklewell Families

21. Amazingly Shacklewell families have raised £20K. Some options for spending are: to fund beach trip and fun day for KS1, panto tickets, outdoor equipment, wet play resources, new mural at the entrance. Money has been kept aside for hardship fund for winter coats. school uniform and school dinners, the school office can provide more information about this.

AOB

22. Next meeting – Friday 19 May 2023 @ 0900am