



Meeting Date: Friday 22 March 2024

Many thanks for all those who attended the Parent Council meeting on Friday 22 March, I would once again like to thank all the year reps for their help in collating agenda items, and to everyone who has spent time communicating with the PC.

Introduction

Jemma (Shacklewell Parent Council Chair) welcomed attendees to the meeting in the and reminded everyone that this forum is for whole-school issues or those that affect a significant number of children and families - individual issues will not be discussed.

Prev actions from last meeting:

- Mid morning snack – looking into funding streams to provide this (Tesco). Y3+4 – noted that some families that would get free school meals haven't applied because they get free anyway (Mayor of London) – but people need to still apply for school to get funding. Bev is targeting families directly who this applies to.
- Class timetables – class timetables will be sent out after the Easter holidays.

Reception wanted a downloadable calendar – people missing dates e.g. come dine etc.

Key dates is saved on website as a pdf so should be downloadable. Can also filter the calendar on the website (parent events, sports etc).

Headteacher Update

New menus

Revised menu for all 4 federation schools.

Food given during Ourspace was occasionally leftovers from lunchtime, this has now changed and Ourspace has its own menu to include items like pitta pockets, cheese, tuna, veg; Spanish omelette; picnic Friday.

Breakfast club – 4 standard options (but varies day by day)

Lunch menu: chef special – once a week chef's choice. Removed things kids don't enjoy (changed chicken topping – less spicy; pizza choice of toppings; jacket potato day with choice of toppings; fish + chips / vegan popcorn some Fridays, other Fridays chicken nuggets / spanakopita; hot dogs)

The children will be informed during an assembly that the menu has changed and they will be shown a film following Chef Aziz preparing one of the new dishes.

Breaktime activities

KS1 playground play together; KS2 genders seem to split / mix less.

Kingball more mixed than football, basketball can also be played in the cage and additional playground equipment has been provided by Shacklewell Families.

It has been noted that there is a tendency to split naturally as kids get older but discussed how to proactively try to mitigate this at playtime. Gatie / Alex on top pitch at lunchtime who can both help facilitate fair play with girls and boys mixing and playing together.

KS2 toilets

General lack of cleanliness, flooding, locks on doors etc. Some Y5 girls and Y4 girls prefer not to be in the playground so hang out in the toilets. Now lunchtime staff regularly walk around to check- children reminded about the well-being space and the low intensity area. School is on the case, and they know who the individuals are.

It was noted that KS1 toilets have been much less problematic since the last PC meeting.

MCAS app

Families using vouchers and TFC – messages from school saying money is owed but can't see on app what status of account is. Delay between payments being made and money going through to school. Generally, school doesn't message for below £5 in arrears.

Numbers of families using app 250 / 646.

Rory noted difficulty of school getting involved in promoting Whatsapp groups as these groups are unofficial / unregulated. This year with reception – promoted Whatsapp group at teddy bear's picnic.

Action

Create a Flyer to promote MCAS at parents evening next week.

School spaces

Renting out spaces out-of-hours for increased revenue. Open plan nature of school makes it difficult. If school community would like to investigate the possibility of hiring spaces, then please approach school directly.

Identity project

No photos received yet to be included in the new display at the main entrance to school! "A place for everyone" please send in any pictures of family or children celebrating their activities (medal at football tournament, music practice etc) – deadline by start of summer term. Email to office or drop a hard copy in (please note that the photos will not be returned).

Every Friday next term the children will have some off-timetable activities exploring everyone is different with year group activities including drama, music and creating an end of year show. It was noted that musicians who performed at Xmas show didn't perform to their peers / year groups so this will be different at the end of year show – as the children will see it.

Tender reset project

News bulletin went out on this. Hackney set 10 schools aside to run this project including Shacklewell & Thomas Fairchild. Challenging difficult relationships at this stage – to spot signs and not become abusers. Tackling actual behaviours, planning, changing behaviour pathways esp. boys with a lot of focus being on feelings. Intensive training with staff. Survey coming out next week – please complete.

Chair Update

Attendance

Some families have received letters from Synergy regarding their child's late record before they have received a letter from school highlighting their concern about attendance/time keeping. School have acknowledged this was less than ideal and Shacklewell will change the way they communicate with families and will email rather than sending a letter home in their child's school bag. It appears on occasion these letters have not made it home, so the first families have heard about their late record from the external company Synergy. Hannah is aware of these letters and is happy to move forward by emailing families.

Medication on trips

Hannah is preparing a briefing for the next staff meeting clarifying protocol about medication on school trips.

AOB

Cars Somerford Grove

We ask families driving their children to school and using Somerford Grove to drop off, if they can be mindful of all the children crossing the road by the alleyway and if they can think more carefully about where they park and make u-turns in the road to help keep all children safe.

Come Learn with Me

We have been asked if parent participation events can take place in the morning at 9am rather than 2pm. We would also like to take the opportunity to say thank you for organising events before school (reading breakfast) so that families who can't attend daytime events can join in.

Shacklewell Families Update

Shacklewell Families desperately needs more help to enable the fundraising and events to continue. If they don't get more help Gilly, Elina, Su (who have been running it for 2 years) will not be able to continue with the volume of events which in turn will reduce the funds available to the school reducing the children's activities. If anyone is available to donate some of their time and take on a particular event, please let Shacks Families know- e.g. running second-hand uniform / raffle / bake sale / smaller jobs. Messages will be sent by the school and can be shared in the year group Whatsapp groups.

Napkins at lunchtime

Doesn't fit with sustainability strategy

SATS question Y6

How to support at home. Wednesday Parent Consultation sessions to discuss.

Next Meeting - Friday 17th May 2024