

## BRIDGE AND PATRIBOURNE C OF E SCHOOL

### PARENT COUNCIL

Date	7 October 2014
Attendees	Kath Brown (Parent, Yrs 5 & 6 Rep) Mrs Stella Byrne (Deputy Head Teacher) Miss Ren Chinnadurai (Head Teacher) Simon Cook (Parent) Sarah Guest (Parent, Chair) Jeremy Hayter (Parent, Chair of Governors) Rachel McInnes (Parent, Yr 4) Lisa Plumb (Parent) Elena Razzano (Parent) Jo Rowbotham (Parent, Yr R Rep) Alisha Siddle (Parent) Kelly Stroud (Parent)
Apologies	Louise Green (Parent, Year 2 Rep)

#### 1. **Reps**

A parent/carer rep is still sought for Years 1 and 3

#### 2. **Parent Engagement**

The school is interested to hear from parents about further ways in which they can improve ways of communicating with parents and carers and involving them in the learning of their children. This is also a specific action from the June 2014 Ofsted Report.

Parents at the meeting felt that the school actually does quite a lot already to engage parents (e.g. information events on literacy, numeracy, IT safety, weekly newsletters, curriculum maps for year groups, face-to-face meetings with teachers 3 times per year, learning in action open days, opportunities to accompany on school trips etc.). The school would also like to stress that it has an open door policy and that parents can book to see a teacher throughout the term. In addition, it was highlighted that parents may e-mail the office who will forward messages to an individual teacher (useful, and more confidential, for children as they move through the school). E-mailing the office is often a secure method of ensuring the message reaches the teacher.

In the spirit of making things even better, the following were also suggested:

- An opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school and look at their child's books/work with them.
- Involvement of parents in gardening projects
- Compiling a list of parents with skills/experience that could be called on to help with the curriculum or specific learning events

- The PTA are currently asking for volunteers to help with building the proposed Art/Music cabin.
- Provide more information to new parents about the structure of the day.
- Make the presentations from previous numeracy/literacy/IT events available on the website in the Parent area

### 3. School Dinners

GSPlus provide the school dinners. The school is contracted to use them for the next 2 academic years. <http://gsplus-catering.org/>

Overall the quality has improved since the meals have been cooked on the school site. The fruit and salad options are viewed as good by the school. All food is freshly prepared on site (*e.g.* food is not prepared from frozen, chips are made from real potatoes). The provider has to follow standards that can be found at <http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/standards/>

KS1 are served at 12 noon. They are all served by 12:15, when KS2 are served; classes take it in turns, a week at a time, to be served first. By 12:30, all pupils have been served.

However, feedback from parents/carers is as follows:

- The menu is poor and on occasions do not provide the children with enough choice. For example, a child was not allowed baked potatoes without baked beans and had to have chips and sweetcorn as their main meal. It would be sensible not to expect mushrooms to be favoured by the majority of children!
- The portions are not large enough, particularly for the older children. Children are going hungry as a result.
- This term the provider has run out of food on a few occasions (on 26 Sep there was no pizza, on 2 Oct there was no dessert, on 6 Oct there was no pepperoni pizza). Miss Chinnadurai noted that some children have had school dinners when they should not have. They have now got green wristbands to try and ensure that only those who should actually have school dinners receive them.
- The queues have been too long for dessert; children have decided to go without rather than queue for ages. Mrs Byrne mentioned that this is dessert dependent – when there is an option of a sauce, the Catering staff ask the children what they would like – this slows things down enormously. The schools will action this and ask the staff to put out desserts with and without sauce to speed things up.
- Accounting is poor. Parents/carers who pay in advance would like to be informed at the end of each term how much they are in credit by (*e.g.* dinners missed because of school trips, illness etc).
- There is a phone number for the provider; however, invariably the call goes through to an answer phone. If it is only available during a certain time of day, parents/carers would like to be informed.

#### 4. AOB

There is not a wide understanding amongst parents/carers of what the remit of the Parent Council is (some parents have thought that it is Ofsted related, which it is not). The main purpose is to provide a forum for parents/carers to discuss ways of making the school the best that it can be.

Next meeting agenda items: parents would like to discuss playground safety/security before and after school.

A parent suggested that those pupils who like drawing may benefit from having a lunchtime comic club, where they could draw/write a comic and sell with profits going to the school.

It was noted that currently Your Music are offering a free lesson via the My Canterbury App.

#### 5. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Spring Term. Parents are asked to send in suggestions for the agenda.

**NOTE: Sarah Guest (Parent) can be contacted via [parent.council@bridge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:parent.council@bridge.kent.sch.uk) e.g. for parent rep volunteers, suggestions for agenda items, further information on items discussed in the minutes etc**

#### ACTIONS

Action	Responsibility	Date due
Highlight that parents can contact individual teachers via the office e mail address <a href="mailto:office@bridge.kent.sch.uk">office@bridge.kent.sch.uk</a>	Miss Chinnadurai	Ongoing
Consider putting on a parent/carer event where they can come into the school and look at books/work with their child	Mrs Byrne	Term 3
Compile a list of parents with specific skills/experience	Sarah Guest	End Nov 14
Make the presentations from previous numeracy/literacy/IT events available on the website in the Parent area	Miss Chinnadurai	End Oct 14
Provide more information to Reception parents/carers about the structure of the school day	Miss Chinnadurai	Nov 14
Consider marketing for the Parent Council	Sarah Guest	End Dec 14
Highlight the quality standards /	Miss Chinnadurai	16 Oct

freshness of the school dinners in the next newsletter		
Provide parent/carer feedback to GSPlus	Sarah Guest	8 Oct

*Sarah Guest*  
*8<sup>th</sup> October 2014*