

BRIDGE AND PATRIBOURNE SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	Thursday 5 th February 2015
ATTENDEES	Mrs Stella Byrne (Deputy Head teacher) Kath Brown (Parent, Yr. 5&6 Rep) Jo Rowbotham (Parent, Yr. R Rep) Rachel McInnes (Parent, Yr. 4 Rep) Sarah Guest (Parent, Chairperson) Clare Streeter (Parent) Becky Sands (Parent) Alisha Sidhall (Parent)
APOLOGIES	Louise Green (Parent, Yr. 2 Rep) Teresa Heep (Parent)

The meeting started with discussing non-agenda issues that had arisen via the reps.

1. Yr. R parents suggested a daily update of what has been covered in class as they are finding it hard to find out from their child what has happened at school. Suggestions included a blackboard of notes in the playground. After a discussion it was acknowledged that resourcing such a task would take staff away from the children and that over time Yr. R children do start to get better at talking through their day.
2. A request for the second gate to be opened in the playground for an 'in and out' system was discussed. It was decided that this would raise more safeguarding issues as people probably wouldn't stick to 'in' and 'out'.
3. A request for a discussion around the school's spelling policy has been postponed until the next meeting, but the policy will be available on the school website to help inform parents.
4. Clarification was required from parents about when boys and girls start getting changed for PE separately. This happens from Year 5 onwards, but any child that has an issue before then can change separately by using the toilets. Parents are encouraged to discuss with individual class teachers.
5. A request was made for information to be made available to parents for what to expect in the next year group in the summer term of the preceding year group. For example, if children need to bring in pencils, pens, etc.

How the school develops the children's community skills through fundraising and in-school responsibilities.

1. From Year 2 children are voted onto the school council who then decide which charities the school is going to support that academic year.

2. Each class has two Eco-council members
3. Fairtrade events are run by Miss Wright (currently on extended leave in Uganda)
Concern was expressed that the same children are always chosen to take on responsibilities and this made other children feel it wasn't worth volunteering as they never get chosen. Any voting should be in a secret ballot and again, concerns were expressed that this wasn't always happening and could be damaging for confidence. It was suggested that better tracking of 'who did what' each year should be kept so that the same children don't keep getting chosen.

Year 6 Responsibilities

- There is an expectation that every child in Year 6 has a responsibility and these 'jobs/roles' change every term. Jobs include: Giving out the registers; cutting up fruit for infants; setting hall up for assembly; being a sports captain; going to Woodpeckers to help tidy up and being play leaders in the playground responsible for initiating games in the infant playground.
- Each Year 6 is the reading partner of a Reception child and this should happen once a month, but feedback from Year 6 parents is that this hasn't been happening. Parents point out that many Year 6 children were very excited about developing this relationship and are disappointed that it hasn't happened more often.

Year 5 Responsibilities

- Making Christingles for Woodpecker children.
- Accompanying year 1 to Christmas Fair and acting as Sports Leaders alongside year 6

Organisation of Lunchtimes

1. Parents were interested to hear how lunch and break times were organised and to see if there was any scope to offer help with lunchtime clubs etc.
2. Playground activities:
 - Foam balls, tennis balls, netball posts all available in the playgrounds. There is one football per class.
 - Library is open for reading and colouring at lunchtime and supervised by a TA.
 - In the summer,(all year round) Mrs Pearson supervises one football game on the school field. Anyone can join in as long as they bring suitable footwear and jogging bottoms
 - If it is very cold, lunch time is shortened and the children come in for a while and then go out again for the last 15 minutes.

- If it is very hot, there are books and colouring activities put under the trees, children eat in the shade and all have to sit in the shade for the last 10 minutes and have a drink.
3. Year 6 Play Leaders role is to help diffuse possible rough play or friendship disputes by introducing games to the younger children and to play with them. Feedback from children quizzed by Rep parents was that Play Leaders weren't that active at the moment. It was suggested that Play Leaders might need re-energising and help generating ideas for games to play with the infants. Parents offered to come in to teach the children games they used to play when young!

Although the school welcome the offer of help, it was highlighted that a long term commitment (of at least a term) would be needed if parents were to offer ongoing support as well as the usual DRB checks needed.

4. A general point was raised about the confidentiality requirements of parents who come in to assist in school.

Parent Council Interaction with PTA

5. Clare Streeter from the PTA came to discuss with the PC how it could work with the PTA. It was suggested that the PC could become a sub-committee of the PTA as it would give the PC more exposure to parents. It wouldn't be practical to tag a PC agenda alongside a PTA meeting as it would take too much time. However, it would be good to have a PC rep at each PTA meeting to talk about future agenda items or to get ideas for further meetings. If there was a big issue to be discussed it might be worth considering adding it to a PTA meeting. Clare will feed this all back to the PTA to see what their views are and to let us know.

Ongoing actions from previous meetings

6. Progress of the Walking Bus and database of parent skills is with Miss Chinnadurai and will be followed up with her on her return.

Next Meeting suggested Agenda Items

7. Spellings Policy.
 8. Parent Support at lunchtimes especially in winter.
 9. Walking Bus and Parent Skills database update.

Action:	By Whom:	Date Due:
Put Spelling policy on website	Mrs S Byrne	Before next PC meeting (already actioned)
Check with Reception staff	Mrs S Byrne	Ongoing (priority for year 6

about Reading Partner scheme		currently is completion of the National Curriculum laid out for them; aim is for reading partners at least once each term (6 weeks) – pairs read and complete linked tasks together for about 1 hour
Investigate re-energising Play Leader activities	Year 6 staff	Ongoing (this is always a slower period due to the cold and wet weather, playleaders do help in KS1 classrooms if children can not go out at breaktime, after Easter playleaders will become more active.
Discuss whether the PC becomes a sub-committee of the PTA	Clare Streeter	PTA meeting Tuesday 10 th February.
Update on Walking Bus and Parent Skills database update from Miss Chinnadurai	Miss Chinnadurai	On Miss Chinnadurai's return