

Bridge and Patricbourne School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
11th October 2017

Attendees

Mr Harper (Deputy Head)

Parents: Sarah, Matt, Bonnie, Stacey, Alisha, Jo, Becky, Kelly, Laura, Sarah, Ruth, Mahatet, Sarah

1. Teaching of foreign languages

The national curriculum for foreign language teaching is very broad and only applies to Key Stage 2, although Key Stage 1 do sometimes have some language teaching. A copy is available on the school website. The core language at Bridge is French although other languages are thought times, and Mrs Amelia is the subject leader. Part of the national curriculum intends for children to listen to other languages. It was suggested that cartoons, available from the web, could be used for this.

2. Social Media

A number of classes have their own private social media groups, such as Facebook, and these can be very helpful to parents to know what is going on at the school, or to ask for lost clothing! However, it has been used by parents to post false and maligning comments about the school, resulting in an inordinate amount of time taken up by senior management at the school to resolve issues. Additionally, since these are private groups, the school logo should not be used on them. The school would like to suggest some simple rules for these groups to help save the time that it has taken to deal with the problems caused. In addition, the school teaches the children to use social media and electronic communications responsibly and respectfully, and it would be helpful if this could be reinforced at home. There was support for this approach by the parents present at the meeting: parents volunteered to speak to the group admins to see if they would be willing to post such rules once issued:

Year R: Becky

Year 1: Kelly

Year 2: Laura and Ruth

Year 3: Jo

Year 4: Sarah

Year 5: Sarah G

Year 6: Alisha (if there is a facebook group)

3. Communication

There was acknowledgement by the school that the poetry freedom day communication, after the initial newsletter and diary dates, had not been to the normal standard and this has been taken on board. An unfortunate sequence of events led to some information not being sent out.

There was a discussion about dressing up days since some parents felt that this put a lot of pressure on the parents. On the other hand, the children tend to enjoy it and do ask for such days.

Harvest was also discussed, since parents were not sure if they were meant to bring in produce or make a monetary donation. It was clarified in the meeting since there were details in a Headteacher's newsletter, which said that money from selling produce was to go to Porchlight and how the food that was not sold was to be taken to Canterbury Food bank. Parents suggested that Canterbury Foodbank would be preferable, since they would prefer this scenario as opposed to donations, which might be less than the value of the produce.

Actions (for the school):

- a) It was agreed that it would be useful to have a communication on the website such as a generic calendar of events which would lay out the activities over the year with ideas on how to dress children up simply for the days that occur with regularity year to year (such as language day and number day), and a description of what is expected of parents at other times of the year (such as Harvest). This is already detailed on the school website but it was felt that a further update was needed.
- b) A request was made for dressing up days to be less specific to make it easier for parents.
- c) It was suggested that the school keep Nativity and Shakespeare costumes (donated by parents) so that parents do not need to keep buying new costumes each year.

4. AOB (with actions for the school)

- a) New parents, who already have a child at the school, have found it problematic to receive Parent Mail messages specific to Year R. The problem is now resolved, but there may be a learning for next year.
- b) It was suggested that the school record the Nativity play and make it available, possibly to buy. Parents would need to sign up to this each year. In all cases, photos and videos of children should not be posted on social media. It is thought that other schools take this approach.
- c) An advert for the Headteacher role will be made available nationally after Christmas. Interviews are to take place in the Spring Term. Mr Harper will be acting headteacher for terms 3-6.

Next meeting: Date tbc – will take place between Christmas and Easter

Parent Council representatives for the year groups are as follows. Please do contact them if you would like to know more about Parent Council or have any items that you would like to discuss at the next meeting:

Year R: Ruth Buckland

Year 1: Sarah Holdaway

Year 2: Emily Williams

Year 3: Jo Rowbotham

Year 4: Vacant – if you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office or Sarah

Guest sarah776655@yahoo.co.uk

Year 5: Sarah Guest

Year 6: Alisha Siddle