

BRIDGE AND PATRIBOURNE C OF E SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Minutes

Date of Meeting: 14 October 2015

Attendees:

Miss Ren Chinnadurai (Head Teacher), Mr Harper (Acting Deputy Head Teacher), Sarah Guest (Parent, Chair), Rachel McInnes, Jo Rowbotham, Alisha Siddle, Kelly Stroud, Emily Williams, Jo Linnane

Apologies Louise Green, Sara Kazmi, Becci Sands, Clare Streeter, Liam Carins

1. Leading Parent Partnership Award – Miss Chinnadurai

The Leading Parent Partnership award is an award that the school is aiming to achieve (see <http://www.lppa.co.uk/>). During the meeting, parents gave feedback in the following areas:

- How can we provide good support for all parents as their children leave the school?
- What other guidance and information can we give parents to help them support their children's learning?
- How can we promote the awareness and participation of all groups of parents in supporting their children's learning and developing their own learning?
- How can we make induction for new parents better?
- How can we make the school more welcoming, communicative and a friendly place for parents?
- How can we further develop effective home-school links and improve children's attendance, punctuality, behavior, progress and positive participation in school?

The feedback obtained from parents at the meeting is recorded in the appendix.

1. The School Plan - Miss Chinnadurai

The School Plan outlines what the school needs to focus on in the coming academic year for the development of the school. There are subject area leaders who determine how to meet the objectives their subject area. There is a nationwide change in how a child's progress is measured this year, with the removal of the old grades (e.g. 3a, 3b, 3c). Schools now have to devise their own way of measuring attainment and progress. For attainment Bridge will be using the new national curriculum and the three recommended terms – emerging, expected and exceeding. Most children will fall into "expected", as it is a very wide band; very few children will fall into "emerging" or "exceeding". For progress, good progress is when the children continue to remain in their band year on year. Bridge is also looking at how we can use age standardised scores to measure progress; this they feel will be helpful to parents. Teachers are being trained how to use the new scoring system. Parents are encouraged to focus on reading and maths at home.

2. The Walking Bus - progress and any teething problems - Rachel McInnes

The Walking Bus has got off to an excellent start. There are 25 children using it, 15 families and 13 volunteers. Children will receive small awards for using the bus. Rachel McInnes was thanked for all her hard work and enthusiasm in putting the walking bus in place.

3. AOB

It was suggested that there is a pool of parents who can help with transport for sports activities, since some parents are willing to help with transport even if their child is not involved the specific sporting activity on that day.

APPENDIX: Feedback from parents at the Parent Council Meeting on 14 Oct 15 in support of the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

HOW CAN WE PROVIDE GOOD SUPPORT FOR ALL PARENTS AS THEIR CHILDREN LEAVE THE SCHOOL?

What to expect.....

When do we start this – Yr 5?

Mindfulness for children.

Invite the parents of Yr 7's back to share their experience of the primary/secondary transition, plus the Yr 7's too.

New-found independence!

Reliance on social media/phone, associated pressures.

Transitional workshops.

Emotional changes.

Peers become more influential than parents!

WHAT OTHER GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION CAN WE GIVE PARENTS TO HELP THEM SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING?

Know about topics in advance, so that we can go to the library and get involved more.

Remove jargon from learning intentions/curriculum maps.

Home learning – some exercises are on separate paper, eg 'Book of my World' in Yr 1. Can be confusing what to do – would a folder be better?

HOW CAN WE PROMOTE THE AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL GROUPS OF PARENTS IN SUPPORTING THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPING THEIR OWN LEARNING?

Maximise website as a resource.

Parents to be given more awareness of child's progress, so that we know where we're aiming.

More feedback from home learning tasks would encourage children.

HOW CAN WE MAKE INDUCTION FOR NEW PARENTS BETTER?

Re-issue list of class names for each group.

Maybe an update for parents at the end of term: summary of what has been learnt or weekly?

A variety of different time slots for pre-school meetings, not just during the school day (for working parents).

Discuss some of the potential problems reception classes have encountered and how the teachers deal with specific examples : upset children, toilet issues, school dinners, lunchtime play, access to siblings.

Welcome procedure for new parents/children coming into the school mid-year.

HOW CAN WE MAKE THE SCHOOL MORE WELCOMING, COMMUNICATIVE AND A FRIENDLY PLACE FOR PARENTS?

The office team do a great job!

Ask people for feedback at every opportunity, eg after PTA meetings and any interactions with parents.

More coffee mornings run by PTA? Doesn't capture everyone though.

Use the Parentmail system to let year groups know who PTA reps are.

Invitations to more events.

Suggestions box in the school office for parents.

Designated area for each year group at the end of the day – easier for teachers and give parents easier access to teacher.

More visibility of staff and governors.

HOW CAN WE FURTHER DEVELOP EFFECTIVE HOME-SCHOOL LINKS AND IMPROVE CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY, BEHAVIOUR, PROGRESS AND POSITIVE PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL?

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Rewards

Certificates

Awards