

Parent Council Meeting – Thursday 18th Jan 2018

Time: 09.45 – 10.55

Attendees: Katie, Lorna, Ruthie, Laura, Lesa, Jodie, Charlotte,

Apologies: Ruth H

Anna explained the scope and purpose of the Parent Council and introductions were made.

Items discussed:

Reading volunteers – Can we have somewhere on our Facebook site or website (or via another method) that gives details of who our reading volunteers are and when they are reading so if a swap does need to be made one week we can do so easily and quickly and without having to do so via the office. It was agreed that timetables for help would be beneficial in individual class windows and not just for reading e.g. volunteers for memory games with Year 2. Timetables could be put in each class window for any type of volunteers and the timeslots needed and people could sign up for whatever they were available for. Class timetables could be put together for approx. 1-hour volunteering slots and would focus help both regular and ad hoc – could be run on a monthly basis to trial. **AM to discuss and organise with staff. Communicate with parents/carers via newsletter and then via classrooms.**

EYFS Word Walls – really positive feedback on the word walls brought home last week and it was recognised that so much work must have gone into making them - thanks needed to go to the EYFS staff. This could be an example of where volunteers could be used going forward for next year and preparation could start in advance for roll out in September. **AM to discuss with EYFS and organise volunteers (Parent Council to help support).**

Communication - continued great communication and support from office and admin! Facebook added to the good communication but it was asked if it could be checked and ensured that the groups were closed groups. **AM to check Facebook Groups.**

Grandparent Day – sounds great idea, initial positive feedback. It was asked if parents/carers could volunteer to help/ or are FOCCs selling cakes etc. It was agreed that any extra cakes from the cake sale on Friday 26th would be kept for the Grandparents day to ensure nothing was wasted (shorter dated items would be used on the Friday, giving the potential for longer life items it surplus to be used at the Grandparent Day). KR also offered to try and source and provide free squash and biscuits (allergens needed to be considered) for the children and it was also agreed to send a school text out to say cakes would be available for adults on the Grandparents Day and donations would be welcome in return. **AM/Office to communicate. KR to source items and arrange cakes and arrange volunteers.**

Reading and Reading Challenges – it was asked if there could be clarification over reading and the reading rules. For example, who is reading with children, how often and how is this done, and what are the rules of the reading challenges. Reading leaflets which were sent home in book bags last term explaining all this. The time-periods for rewards were confirmed as each short term and in addition there was a small reward being given weekly to the winning class (for example parachute in the school hall). Anna confirmed that whilst it might appear that more reading was being done in reception classes compared to other years, this was not the case, it was just different reading methods are being used to suit the different age groups – for example the older children were focusing on reading in pairs and class reading in smaller groups to enable children to read more often and build confidence, whereas the Reception and younger children were focusing on one to one reading to get them learning to read. The aim for Y1 and 2 is individual reading once a month with a teacher so that assessment is accurate. YR are reading twice a week with a member of staff so that we can get them reading more fluently, sooner. It was asked have staff found the reading challenge well supported by the children? Do the children feel they are incentivised? **Anna to get feedback from staff.**

School bookings (after school/weekends)- Laura asked what is the process for this as she had been attending a circuit class on a weds eve but this has now stopped as the booking couldn't be confirmed. It was agreed that hiring the hall would be great to raise extra money for school and could the process be

confirmed to ensure that bookings ran smoothly and through the right channels. **Anna to contact evening class provider and explain. Rules to be clarified to encourage bookings.**

Paying for school trips and events - Can we look at paying on-line or by direct debit for school trips etc? Rather than bringing in cash. Google forms/polls. Anna explained there were costs involved with doing this and we don't have enough events to warrant charges and therefore wouldn't be beneficial. Parents asked if it could be done where we could pay for multiple events instead of keep sending money in? Parents/carers to be asked for thoughts – **Parents/carers to give feedback and thoughts.**

Buddy system for new parents – Laura had noticed a new child recently joined Rowan class which got her thinking that the child will probably have lots of support in settling into school but wondered what support we give new parents/carers? Could this be something the class reps can pick up and help make new parents/carers feel welcome? It was also discussed if there could be an info. pack or set list of useful and welcoming information that could be given to the parents/carers before they start – school information, Facebook groups, website info etc. **Parent Council to think what could be included and School to communicate with relevant class reps for new parents/carers going forward.**

Lego topic – positive feedback - everyone felt it is great to involve girls, boys and imaginations!!! Really well thought out. Although a few people had expressed concern over money being spent on Lego bibles it was felt that the positive feedback was greater than the negative, and the visible learning and development of the children was significant.

Friends' leavers hoodies for YR 2 – colours and when they can start wearing them – It was felt that bright colours were better and they could be available and worn from the start of Term 6 (end term – May half term onwards). Names of children would be on the back, bought online via a link. **Katie is contacting the company and organising (T-Shirts and Hoodies).**

Emotional Coaching for parents – possible emotional coaching session for parents/carers to be run on an evening (preferably at a time which would help parents/carers attend – i.e. after work, or with the possibly of a creche to be available) – this involves methods used to help understand and manage any challenges from frustrated or angry children and when children perceive something to be unfair and are upset. Staff attended emotional coaching on inset day and it was felt to be very useful. **Anna to organise a session for parents/carers to attend if they wish. Info. To be communicated via Newsletter.**

Maths resources for parents/carers to buy – could have the chance to buy mini kits to help support the activities/skills used in school, Parents Council can help assemble – **Anna and Parent Council to organise.**

Link with friends, do we have confirmed dates on when events are taking place? – it was agreed that a Summer Celebration would be held at the Infants but open to Juniors. Any profits would go to the Infants and Katie would look at organising the necessary licenses to enable the celebrations to go ahead over 3 possible dates. Katie explained that the Friends met last week and were agreeing dates. Thurs 5th July would be the circus at the Juniors. Scarecrow Hunt being organised by Jodie and Katie happy to help with volunteers, possibility of Downend Voice to be asked to advertise – **Katie to communicate dates of events. Scarecrow Hunt info. to be communicated. Summer Celebration at CCI for CCI and CCJ families confirmed for 13th July.**

KS1 SAQ Festival (sports event) – Monday or Tuesday afternoon w/c 12 March. Children to be given option to confirm their interest and then names to be picked out of hat (limited places). Transport to be arranged – **Anna to arrange.**

Playground development and Friends funding– funding available from friends. Plan to resurface top area so something other than mud, but in meantime Anna would like to get something straight away - possibly wigwams, low level wooden balancing equipment – being investigated as some money is available. Possible prep work might be needed before plus ideas of another 'spring' clean (summer term) this year including any painting work needed – clear areas, litter picking, tidying, painting – **Anna to investigate playground equipment with Parent Council and both to organise the clean and tidy.**

Shopping Lists-Some parents/carers had asked what they could do to help school with necessary resources and had supported the glue stick request – school were very grateful for this. It was suggested that a shopping list could be put together with necessary items so if people wanted to help they could via newsletter, classroom lists etc – **Office to put a few appreciated items on the newsletters for anyone wanting to help. Latest update is that we'd love purple biro's, whiteboard pens and rubbers and tissues.**