

# Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 1.30pm



**Present:** Snehal Parulkar, Emma Richards, Becky Hoult, Kelly Markey, Alec Richmond, Laura Jackson, Julie Nye, Natalie Rossiter and Emma Taylor.

**Apologies:** Liz Shaylor, Mandeep Sagoo, Nicola Daniel, Helen Jones and Susan Knott.

## Welcome to our Autumn Term Meeting

Mrs Ashe opened the meeting with a welcome to new members and a review of the class representatives. Ideally one parent per class. See attached presentation for more information about the Parent Council aims and purpose. Mrs Ashe proposed a restructure of the meetings. Parents to meet at 1.30pm to share and gather their points before presenting them to SMT at 2.15pm. This would be a better use of time and allows Parent Council to share their experiences with parents with younger children in an attempt to reassure and dispel concerns that may be resolved by school in time. This makes way for common themes and Parent Council can prioritise points to raise.

**Natalie Rossiter to Chair. Laura Jackson to assist as Vice Chair.**

## Points raised today from parents by Parent Council:

### Drop off and pick up points discussed

- Teachers to wear high visibility jackets at the gate.
- Mrs Doyle is strategically placed on the path to direct children.
- Why do children have to wait? Difficult to shuttle children with the number of teachers and TAs on site so children do have to wait in line and walk as a class.
- SMT are at the gate to ensure children do not come back out of the gate once they have been dropped by their parent. Parents must 'drop and go' to discourage children running back to them.
- Timetable has reverted back to pre covid.
- It was agreed that parents don't consider others on the roads around school. Parents stopping to let their children out of their cars. Parents also standing talking and causing an obstruction on the pavement.
- Alec R has been communicating with Andy Mackewicz MP since May, last week he was scheduled to come into school to take a look, however he didn't come. Parents need to write to him on masse. Parents are not adhering to the new road markings and the Council are not enforcing them.
- There was a suggestion that we use the KS1 vehicle entrance as the main entrance which would be safer and further away from the road. Allow spaces for children to line up in classes. This will be taken back to SMT for further discussion.
- No parents on site enables teachers to make a prompt start with the children each morning.
- Station Road is quieter than Hanbury Road. Station Road allows for parents to wait inside the gate on the path.
- Parents who live within walking distance should walk where possible to reduce congestion on the roads.
- No idling.
- Breakfast Club available for those who would like their children to be at school earlier for parents rushing to work.
- Parent Council will create a flyer for the Weekly News to make a direct plea to parents to be more considerate at drop off and pick up.

## **Does the school think about how many days are allocated over the whole academic year for special days, such as non-uniform, charity days?**

Teachers all have an area of responsibility so suggest days that match their area. Special days may be created from a school priority/School Improvement Plan target. The academic year diary is looked at yearly and termly to ensure a balanced approach. Non-uniform days are published at the beginning of each term in the Dates section of the Termly Newsletter and on the website. Reminders are published on the Weekly News. Charities offer links via their website or through Parentpay. School may be able to collect money for the charity via Parentpay – **CM to check with Finance Department.**

Parents can recycle or pass on outfits. It doesn't need to be a very expensive costume. Children can create an outfit out of something they already have, be inventive and minimal e.g a ribbon in hair of a colour required to be worn.

## **Mathletics and Readwriter**

Information needs to be sent to parents as early as possible in the term. There was lots of information shared with parents at the Parents Information evening at the beginning of term and all uploaded to the website. School to be aware of language and acronyms used. It has been noted that school have worked hard at setting on a Tuesday as promised.

## **Why do the KS2 children wear ties?**

Parents are curious when ties are no longer worn in the adult workplace, they are a Health and Safety issue, it would reduce the cost of the uniform if they were no longer required.

Parent Council and SMT collective response was that it makes the children look and feel smart, gives them an identity, a sense of pride and growing up. School has made allowances by introducing a non gender whole school uniform specification and allowing non branded polo shirts. School are also committed to assisting parents with the cost of uniform by organising second hand uniform sales from uniform donations.

## **Is Parents Evening going to be on line this term?**

Yes – The plan is to send the children's books home for Parents Evening to give parents the opportunity to go through them at home before their appointment. As long as the children bring them back! Parent Council acknowledged Walkabout allows parents to look at books and display work.

## **Mrs Ashe presented information about AMAT – Arden Multi Academy Trust**

### **Letter to parents outlined advantages but disadvantages were not covered. Is this a consultation or a sell?**

Mrs Ashe explained that this is very much still in consultation and under discussion. Meetings with Arden are for parents to attend as part of the consultation process. See presentation attached and letter sent to parents with link to attend.

## **Consultation Process**

- Consultation opens: Wednesday 28th September 4.00pm
- Staff consultation: Tuesday 18th October 3.45pm
- Presentation to parents with AMAT CEO Martin Murphy: Wednesday 19th October 7pm KS2 Hall
- Informal drop in session with Dorridge Senior Team: Thursday 20th October 2.15pm KS2 Hall
- Formal response to stakeholder questions: Wednesday 9th November
- Consultation closes: Wednesday 16th November 4.00pm

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Parent Council meets at 1.30pm. SMT join for discussion at 2.15pm.**