



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 – 1.30pm

Present

Representatives: Snehal Parulkar, Emma Richards, Liz Shaylor, Avi Sandhar, Kelly Markey, Alec Richmond, Laura Jackson, Julie Nye, Natalie Rossiter and Katie Rudge. **SMT:** Ros Ashe and Jodie Hales.

The format of the meeting has been changed to allow for PC to meet in advance and compare and compile points from parents in each class. Points are discussed and either resolved or presented to SMT during the second half of the meeting.

Nursery and Nursery Plus – What are the differences?

Every child is entitled to 15 hours free Nursery provision funded by the Government. Some parents qualify for a further 15 hours within the 30 Hours Entitlement program. Nursery applicants were sent a survey to gather preferences and the overwhelming preference was for a morning place. Two Nursery classes were created to provide morning sessions for all. The Nursery Plus Teacher is Mrs Molloy and the Nursery Teacher is Mrs Webb. Both are supported by Teaching and Learning Support Assistants. Nursery Plus children are able to stay all day by using their 30 Hour Entitlement or paying for the extra session. There is a small charge for a hot lunch and the care to bridge the gap between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Each class is taught to the same curriculum with the same planning. The Assessment tool Evidence Me is used to record and progress and share it with parents. This provision was also created to reduce transition time and disruption for the children. Their settling into Nursery has proved to be significantly better this Autumn Term.

Parking and Congestion around School

Parent Council has again raised the issue of Parking in the immediate vicinity of the school entrance on Hanbury Road at drop off and pick up. The school recently had a visit from the Head of Highway Management for SMBC who observed the traffic. He has taken away a number of steps to be delivered by Solihull Council. Can we please ask that parents observe the clear restrictions on no waiting areas, the double yellow lines and the timed single line restriction opposite the pedestrian entrance.

PC will take the lead on this, firstly by promoting the message on the Weekly News. Other ideas included asking residents on Hanbury Road if they would like to 'rent' their drive for pick up/drop off. PC are also going to contact the Methodist Church and Sainsbury's.

School Drop off – points made

- Thank you for the changes so far
- Can't please everyone – revised system better than it was
- Some children like to be brought into school others are happy to go from the gate
- One way walking system difficult according to where parents have parked
- This has an impact on parents coming later waiting for car spaces
- One-way system for parents at Hanbury gate is for safeguarding children coming in through the gate
- Stops waving at the window and children settle sooner – learning earlier
- Congregating children is dangerous on a busy road, some year 5&6 children coming too early
- Some older children want to stand and wait, others happy to go in and do the loop with parents
- Teachers have to attend pre and after school meetings and prep so parents need to be prompt
- There is an element of separation anxiety, parenting style, working hours all contribute
- It would be counter productive to change it again
- Finding a balance

- Less concerns for KS1 children
- Parking peaks and troughs have improved
- Parents still driving up the driveway to the Hanbury Road park which is dangerous
- Small children released earlier than older siblings and have to wait too long at the end of the school day
- Parents Evening
- Parents are split over preference for online and face to face appointments.
- Appointments will be face to face for Spring Term. 2023-2024 will be face to face in Autumn Term with Spring Term on line
- It would be better if books were sent home on Friday for the weekend to allow parents time to look at them
- Many were not returned to school this time as per the plan – office had to chase or parents brought in later

Why do we no longer have sets for English?

Results have shown that we have raised standards by not having sets for all children in English. The children's class teacher who teaches them English in the morning also teaches them other subjects in the afternoon. They are then aware of each child's English ability and the expectation and support am and pm are the same. Children know they have to work to the same standard when writing during all lessons that require English skills.

Children are set for Maths in KS2. All children in years 2 to 5 complete NTS assessments each term in Maths, Reading and SPAG which helps teachers to assess children. These tests are a snap shot of what a child can do and not used in isolation. Instead, teachers use this information along with class work, questioning, observations and marking to complete a full assessment of each child every term.

In KS2 the children are set for Maths. However, Year 3 will not be set until January 2023 having allowed teachers to gain a full knowledge of each child's understanding based upon the Year 3 curriculum, which is a big step up from Year 2. Sets in Year 3 have not been finalised yet but based upon what teachers have seen so far, we envisage having a higher set and then 2 parallel sets which we believe will meet the needs of all children better.

Can Darby's offer a 7.30am start?

It has previously been discussed and decided that a 7.30 start is too early for children especially if they are booked into Teatime Club too. 7.30am-6pm is a long day for children especially as there is also an education element involved.

Recognition and Rewards

This subject has been on the agenda many times during PC. We currently employ Dojo, Endeavour, stickers and postcards across school with a hole punch system in Reception. Mrs Ashe also has an Outstanding Work Award V Class Dojo points and Endeavour can be awarded to individuals or to the whole class. Parents can also adopt the Dojo point system at home via their app. Parents can see Class Dojo points that have been awarded at school. SMT will check that all teachers have the correct settings to ensure Class Dojo points are visible to parents.

Parents would like to be invited into school more often?

Every Year group is taking part in a performance this year. Parents are invited into school for Walkabout termly. The PTA is holding a Christmas Fayre on 3rd December in the KS2 building and a Summer Fair later in the year. The whole of the school community are invited to sing Christmas Carols at the end of the Autumn Term when Year 1 will be performing.

It takes time over a four week period for children to rehearse a performance which has an impact on learning time. There will be more opportunities during this academic year and an increase in parental invitation. Inviting parents can cause anxiety to children and the parents of those children who are unable to attend and in turn an expectation to also offer an alternative date/time. Always difficult to find a balance.

Next Meeting Date TBC