



Parent Council Minutes

Rooted in the community to grow and flourish

Date	30.3.22
Attendees	KM, EG, NF, MB
Apologies	

Agenda	Minutes	Actions
1. Welcome and thank you	EG thanked everyone for giving up their time to attend the meeting.	
2. Minutes from the last meeting	The uniform policy has been updated and expectations for September '22 have been shared with families. EG clarified that no shirts would be worn from September '22 and that the uniform voucher scheme for children who are eligible for free school meals would be updated to include polo shirts with the school logo rather than a tie. Once this has been finalised the information will be shared with families.	
3. Writing	<p>EG gave an overview of the teaching and learning of writing across the school. Families are advised to look on the school website 'Curriculum' page where they are able to select 'writing' and then look in more detail at the way skills are built up from reception to year 6.</p> <p>EG highlighted the various aspects of writing (including spelling, punctuation, grammar, handwriting, content).</p> <p>We discussed the cursive handwriting approach taught to children and acknowledged the challenges children face in building writing fluency and stamina. EG explained how a handwriting pen is introduced in Key Stage 2 (ie. through a pen license as well as the age of the child) and the importance of having some discreet handwriting lessons during the week.</p> <p>We discussed ways that parents/carers can engage in supporting children as they develop writing skills and agreed that writing workshops would be useful. A recent writing workshop for Oak Class did not have a high number of families attending so the school is keen to</p>	<p>EG to explore the possibility of having a 'Year Group/Class Workshop' which would follow this format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adults have time in the hall to listen to an input from the class teacher regarding a range of subjects and areas



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	<p>encourage a higher level of engagement in future.</p> <p>It was suggested that the school might be able to offer further incentives for working on handwriting with home learning through awarding track it lights, certificates, stickers etc.</p>	<p>which are relevant for that class/ year group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time in the classroom where adults can complete learning activities alongside their child <p>EG to discuss with staff the incentives which could be used to raise the profile of handwriting.</p>
<p>4. Educational Visits</p>	<p>We acknowledged that covid guidance has had a negative impact on the usual provision for educational trips within the school.</p> <p>EG shared the current school approach: Year 5 and 6 children are offered a 2 year cycle of residential trips which will be an outdoor adventure focus one year and one linked more to humanities/science the following year. Past trips have included Leeson House and New Barn and this year Elm Class will be staying at PGL.</p> <p>EG shared that before next academic year, staff will be reviewing the overview for educational visits alongside the long term plans for topics. This will mean trips can be aligned to support the learning taking place in class and are likely to not all take place at the same point in the year.</p> <p>In the summer term this year, each class will be attending a school trip and we are looking forward to this as we all agreed that these play a vital role in building self-confidence, resilience and a sense of team work (among many other positives!)</p> <p>EG outlined the barrier of increasing transport costs and we considered whether an option would be to ask parents/carers to drop children at the trip site as this would help avoid coach costs. Our discussion led us to conclude that travelling on a coach/mini bus is part of the whole 'trip' experience so we would prefer for children to be able to have this offer.</p> <p>EG also asked whether parents/carers would prefer trips to be further away as lots of families already hold tickets to enable them to visit local attractions for free. Members of the council felt that actually such attractions should still be</p>	



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	<p>considered as often they will run different activities for schools who are visiting and also larger families may not regularly visit such places routinely.</p>	
<p>AOB</p> <p>Website enquiry</p>	<p>EG received an enquiry submitted through the Parent Council page on the school website asking when families will receive communication about class arrangements from Sept '22 and teaching staff positions across the school.</p> <p>EG explained that new reception families will be offered school places in April '22 and the school will then begin its transition process for these new starters. The reception teacher will therefore be shared with relevant families first.</p> <p>The school has previously had a consultation with the school community which concluded with a decision to reduce the PAN (pupil numbers) so this is also a factor each year when class arrangements are decided.</p> <p>EG anticipates that communication with families regarding class arrangements and where teachers will be based will be shared soon after May half term. Transition plans can then also be implemented before the start of the new academic year.</p>	
<p>4. Ideas for discussion at next meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ELSA provision - Playground (including the coloured markings) - Collective worship - Home learning 	

Next meeting date: 8.6.22