

MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Meeting of Parent Council Wednesday 15 May 2013 at 6.30 pm in the Small Hall

Attendees:

Helen Doran (Chair) Yr 2
Paula Ayliffe (school)
Roger Wulferstan (governor)
Lotty Gladstone (minutes) Yr 3
Charlotte Lestienne Yr 4
Emma Smith Yr 4
Sima Shimi Yr 4
Sarah Leigh Yr 1
Zara Jarwad Yr 1
Kate Noble (Yr 1/3)
Debbie Goodrick - Reception, from 7.30pm

Apologies:

Katy Davenport Yr 1 – step down from PC
Claire Hancock Yr 4
Fiona Phillips Yr 1 – step down from PC
Efrat Liberman - Reception
Diane Rowland Yr 5
Jayne Green Yr 6
Tanis Bendall Yr 2

1. Minutes from last meeting

- Headlice information still to be provided
- Info on leadership days: now added to website under Curriculum tab
- Online payment: due for school dinner payment soon. PC agreed to park requesting online payment for school trips / other activities until the system is running

2. Newsletter article

Helen to add a little bit about other advantages to becoming a PC rep e.g. finding out issues in other year groups.

3. Terms of reference

- Amendments approved by PC. Paula to check that the school are happy with the changes and Roger with the GB.
- While discussing this item, the PC decided that an online FAQ would be a useful addition now that new reps are bringing up old topics. Included would be an explanation of how the PC meets, discusses items and makes decisions. Items on the FAQ would also cross-link to the relevant meeting minutes where the item was originally covered.
- We also discussed general problems with the website, e.g its organisation, links to pdfs rather than embedded text etc, and that a new website was due this academic year. Can the school let the PC know the timetable for the new website?

4. Email communication

Paula explained the background to email issues in Yr 2 and use of the google group. The PC agreed it would be useful to be clear to parents about the different methods of communications in different year groups to aid expectations, eg Yr 6 blog.

5. Transitions between year groups

Much discussion and confusion between parents about the differences between the year groups, in particular from KS1 to KS2, and when the pupils start to work towards changing year. Paula reiterated that after half-term, Yr 2 start to work more like Yr 3, e.g. golden time, occasionally having no afternoon break. After Transition Day on July 12th, there will be more opportunities to work as they will in the next year, and leaflets will be produced for parents. The PC requested that the leaflets included teaching differences and things like golden time, in addition to the usual logistical information (stationary, PE kits etc).

6. Parent consultations

We discussed many of the problems, and will add this to the FAQ, with pointers to parents to get the most out of their time with the teacher.

Action

Diane Rowland

Helen

Paula & Roger

Helen & Lotty

Paula / Office

Lotty: FAQ

Paula

Lotty FAQ

We also discussed issues surrounding Targets Afternoons and will add to the FAQ. Paula to ask that Targets sessions be scheduled so that the class teacher (rather than PPE cover, for example) will be available.

Paula /Office

7. Greater scrutiny of play scripts (Yr 5)

Diane Rowland has already dealt with this.

8. Quality of school dinners (Reception)

Paula reiterated that any issues of quality (whether what is being offered or the way it is cooked in the school) is a County issue because they assess quality, not the school. Add details about dinners and direct links to CCS to FAQ.

Lotty: FAQ

9. Sports Day

Paula explained that last year's Sports Day was different because of the special Olympics theme. Paula to see Rachel Moulds for a schedule.

Paula

10. School Questionnaire

Liz Barrow had produced an explanation of the purpose and how the data is processed. The PC asked that this be sent out to parents. Needs to go back to GEWP to confirm that Liz's note be sent out to all.

Roger

11. Science week

Open discussion about the pros/cons of Science week being broadly themed (as last year) or focussed (as these year), distinct from Cambridge University Science week, or dovetailing with it. Mad Science is provided externally and rotates between schools. The dressing-up theme was widely criticised by parents, but Paula explained this was chosen by the children themselves. Requests for help from teachers was variable between different year groups.

12. Targets sessions

PC requested that notices advertising the Targets sessions be pinned up on the school gates, like MAPS cakes sales. Information on Targets, and what to expect from the session, to be added to the FAQ.

Paula/ Office
Lotty (FAQ)

13. Toilets

Add information on when they are spot-checked, cleaned etc to FAQ. Soap dispenser issues raised in Reception. Paula clear that those in RA are fine and that children must be encouraged to report specific issues.

FAQ

14. Ice-cream van; parking inappropriately

Some parents in Reception unhappy about the van parking directly outside the Infants gates. Suggestion that the school could ask him to move (already attempted) or consider alternative ways to move the van, eg. Bylaws. Paula explained the school does not have the resources. Conversely, parent reps from higher year groups said that some of their parents were missing the ice-cream van now it only comes occasionally.

FAQ

15. Lost property

Much discussion again on this issue. Add to the FAQ. One idea was to identify a lost property table outside so that parents can scoop up abandoned clothes outside and put them on the table for collection. Also agreed that the PC should return to parents to ask them for their ideas to improve the situation.

Paula and all
reps.

16. Sun advice

Some reception parents would like a school policy on sun safety. Like the ice-cream van, this is clearly a polarising issue with PC reps in higher years feeling that the current status quo was adequate. Paula agreed to ask that reminders on sun safety go into letters about school trips.

Paula / office

AOB: Several issues specific to Yr 3 were discussed (e.g. dressing-up days, homework) and suggestions taken to class teachers.