

Minutes for Parent Council Meeting 11th November 2015

Present: Helen Doran 5C, Gill Bunting 4N, Jude Ashman RJ, Sarah Peake 4M, Lotty Gladstone 6F, Lottie Spires 2H, Orla Machin 2E, Lucie Arnaud 2H, Tracey Lattimore RAC, Kath Barlow 6O, Mark Stevenson 3LW, Clare Hewlett 3LW, Elizabeth Collins 5C, Wilma Kotzenberg 5M, Sarah Stepney, Deputy Head

Apologies: Roisin Vaughan 1H, Erminia Carillo 2E, Van Bui, RAC, Kate Noble 4M, Rachel Watson 6F

Welcome to Council - Clare Hewlett 3LW, Tricia Gilmore 4N, Tracey Lattimore RAC, Jude Ashman RJ and Sarah Stepney taking over from Paula Ayliffe for school leadership team.

Introduction to Parent Council

- Mayfield's Parent Council has been running 4 for years. Its primary purpose is to provide better communication between parents and the school on year or whole school group issues. Issues/concerns raised at the Parent Council are either considered by the school leadership team or school governors.
- Each class has between 1 and 3 reps. There are currently 19 reps but these are not spread evenly over the year groups – there are currently vacancies for 2 classes in years 1 and 3. We have asked for additional reps for these classes in the school newsletter but have had no response.
- Membership has become a self-selecting group but originally the idea was for one teacher selected rep and one parent/carer selected rep. At the start of each academic year all parents/carers are asked if they are interested in joining the Council. We try and 'roll over' one existing more experienced class rep into the next year group plus a new rep. When no new rep is forthcoming existing reps move with their class to the next year group, if they wish to continue.
- There is a rolling chair for each meeting, with additional coordination by Helen Doran and Lotty Gladstone.
- Meetings are once a term rotating between evenings and mornings.
- Reps are the only parents/carers able to access google groups. They are free to post messages but should check with the class teacher if sharing information related to teaching.

1. Academy update (Sarah Stepney)

There are ongoing discussions in the school and governing body about academy conversion and Mayfield sponsoring the Darwin Green Primary School. However, Darwin Green is now on hold as the University Primary School is expanding its numbers. The school and governing body will need to consider what these changes mean for Mayfield if it becomes an academy.

2. Progress monitoring (Sarah Stepney)

The school is using Classroom Monitor as the tool to pull together end of year expectations and learning objectives for maths, English and other core subjects. Progress is measured using a 'traffic light' system to show if children are emerging, developing, secure or

exceeding their learning objectives. Teachers are starting to use and test the system now with a longer term view to allowing parents to access the tool online.

The government wants 85% of children 'secure' on end of year expectations, but the school is still waiting on government guidance for how many learning objectives a child needs to meet to be secure. Once a child is secure they will focus on breadth and depth of learning (termed mastery) rather than moving on to the next year's expectations.

Classroom Monitor also allows teachers to attach evidence to see how children are progressing. It's not just about data. It can help set targets and identify gaps. It will help highlight what a child's next steps are and, once embedded, provide information for parent consultations/in school reports.

Children will be tested 4 times during their primary school years – foundation stage baseline; year 1 phonics test; and maths and English tests at the end of Key stage 1 (year 2) and Key stage 2 (year 6). The School Run website is a good source of further information <http://www.theschoolrun.com/>

3. Grounds person post

Two posts have been offered – one a practical handyman, one with horticultural experience.

4. Homework

- There is to be a leadership team review of homework to gauge the impact it has in class, and to monitor the number of children completing homework.
- Reception children have reading and phonic sheets to practise at home.
- Reps to discuss with parents their views on homework and feedback to Sarah Stepney in time for the leadership meeting.

5. Playground markings

A mock up design has been done with suggestions from children, then parents and teachers. There are quotes from companies for the design. Mr Taylor has been approached to see if he can recommend anyone. We need to see if funding for the design can come from MAPs (maybe part-funding with an additional fund-raising drive from infant parents). As MAPs fund projects recommended by the school Sarah Stepney will look at how this can be included and put to the Chair of MAPs.

6. Are new teacher aware of Parent Council and reps?

We are confident they are.

7. Improving playground behaviour – no cycling or scooting on school grounds

Bikes and scooters are not to be ridden in the playground. This includes siblings. Recommendations:

- Posters on school gates as a reminder of no cycling/scooting.
- Assembly to remind children.
- A discussion needed with Playtime (after school club) about riding bikes and scooters on the playground.
- Reps to send a google groups reminder to parents.

8. Update of Parent Council FAQ

Helen Doran to revise, all reps to make parents aware there are questions relating to parent consultation in the FAQs document.

9. How qualified are staff in medical room?

Three members of staff have attended a 3 day paediatric first training course, 10 members of staff have attended a one day first aid training course, and class teachers have attended a resuscitation training course. Children go to the medical room or children's kitchen to be seen. If necessary, parents will be called (the parents of reception children will be called unless a very minor injury). Stickers are given to children with 'bumped heads.'

Concerns were raised by the Parent Council about how playground accidents have been handled in the past. Secure systems are in place but the Parent Council requested more information from first aiders when collecting children – e.g. where (hard surface, grass), what time the accident happened, if the child has been dizzy or sick.