

Parent Council Meeting, Tuesday 6th May 2014, 2pm

Attendees:

Tracy Potter (Headteacher)

Emma Hammacott

Maria Mangan

Anita Parham

Anne Martin

Amanda Searle

Rachel Anderson

Sarah Kappa

Nicky Scott

Sam Aitken

Joanne Richards (SENCO) joined the meeting for a few minutes at the start

Apologies

None received

Agenda.

Previous minutes and action points

SEND local offer / school information

Team morning

Year R numbers

Universal free school meal arrangements

Sports day

Year 6 prom

Federation

Year R playground development

AOB

Minutes

Previous minutes & action points

TP went through the actions from the previous meeting:

Behaviour golden day rewards

The children have been able to choose their activities and this seems to have worked quite well. This half term due to the length of the half term classes are planning their own activities which will occur on the final afternoon. Parents said that there had been less complaints from their children and that it seemed to be working better.

Food policy

TP noted that the policy was written and that both parents and children seem far less confused by the 'no chocolate' message and that overall this seems to be more effective. One parent did note that her child had told a member of staff that he had marmite when in actual fact it was chocolate spread! ☺

Merits

There seems to be a good balance in terms of the numbers of children receiving merit certificates across the school. Some parents commented that specific children do not seem

to get merits very often even though they are known to be very well-behaved and work hard. One parent asked about good learning and it was noted that there have been less good learning assemblies this year.

Pedestrian training

Due to new commitments the parents who delivered this programme are no longer able to do so. TP to include a request for people to be trained in the next newsletter.

Kitchen / golden lunch

The changes to golden lunch seem to have had a very positive impact and there has been some increase in the amount of 'cookery' but this will need to be increased further. Thanks were expressed to MM for assisting TP's husband in working with the children on golden lunch.

Texting

The office have been asked to include names or year group in texts.

Fun night

As the parents were aware we did attempt to organise a 'fun evening' but there was a very poor response and so we cancelled it.

SEND local offer / school information & team morning

JR explained that from September each school is required to publish information about the support they offer to children with special educational needs - this will be added to a Hampshire wide database. The idea behind this is that parents can make informed judgements when selecting schools. It is important for all stakeholders including parents to be consulted regarding the content of this information and in particular to ensure that it is readily understandable. With this in mind parents are going to be invited to a meeting on 23rd May at 9am to discuss our responses, this will then be followed by an opportunity for parents to join their children undertaking art activities in their teams. All parents reported they feel Bedenham is a superb school which goes above and beyond for children with specific needs.

Year R numbers

TP was delighted to point out that we have a waiting list for new Year R though it appears likely that there will be some appeals. It was noted that the local authority are responsible for organising places and it is not the school!

Universal free school meal arrangements

TP explained that with the introduction of universal free meals the school is considering lunchtime arrangements and whether we need to have two sittings. We don't envisage a massive take-up but we will keep reviewing the situation. Year R and 1 parents have been sent a letter asking them whether they are likely to take up the offer and this will be included in discussions with new Year R parents. To speed lunchtimes up we are investing in new dining furniture. TP emphasised how important it will be for parents to still register their eligibility for FSM under the old system as it could have a significant impact on pupil premium monies.

Sports day

The date for sports day is 23rd June. TP asked whether parents should be invited to have a picnic lunch as has been the case in previous years - this was seen very positively.

Year 6 prom

Year 6 pupils have been asked whether they would like to have a 'prom'. TP is unsure of the results of this and will feedback to parents about the preferred end of year celebration when this is clarified.

Federation

TP noted that there have been very few responses to the consultation and it looks likely that federation will occur. Parents are still not really sure what this will mean and TP attempted to

clarify this. On a day to day basis it is unlikely that there will be significant changes seen, certainly in the short-term. Parents wondered whether TP was likely to apply for the Executive Headteacher role and she commented that she was waiting to see the job description etc

AOB

Lack of Year 3 trips

SA asked why Year 3 have had so few trips this year.

Rock Challenge

Another parent had asked why the decision to have a year off JRock had been made. All parents acknowledged that a break was needed.

Google calendar

Parents pointed out that swimming appears to be going on throughout the summer holidays, TP to check and adjust.

Year R playground development

Everyone went outside to look at the 'grassy' area that is going to become part of the Year R playground - this involves moving a fence and putting up a new shed. Parents felt this would make good use of the space.

The meeting closed at 3:10pm.

Next meeting: 1st July at 2pm