



# Coxheath

## Primary School

### Parent Council Minutes – 09/11/23

#### Attending

- Giacomo Mazza – Headteacher
- Katherine Tunnicliffe - Governor
- Sally Lang (Minute taking)
- Katie Price– Leeds
- Alison Farrant – Hever
- Francesca Boulton – Allington
- Aly Semenco – Bodiam
- Angie Holland – Scotney
- Amy Jones – Rochester
- Ann Read – Canterbury
- Sarah Howe – Herstmonceux
- Joy Ogbonna - Pevensey

#### Apologies

- Victoria Gest – Walmer
- Louise Barden
- Sam Southby - Thurnham
- Jess Sharpe - Dover
- Chelsea Farley - Rye

#### Actions from previous meeting (25/03/23)

GM began the meeting by going over points from last meeting.

- KS1 parents to wait on playground at pick up. To continue checking.
- Can we change fish and chips to nugget and chips? This has been discussed with the catering company and unfortunately it is not possible.
- Changing area for PE is separate in Year 6 and Year 5 classes. Blinds for windows are due in the future but the window is covered in the meantime.
- GM has contact for aircon. Will revisit in the future before warmer weather.

- Parents should be receiving all emails now. Any problems, then please come in to the office so that we can investigate.
- Side gate should be open in the mornings to Leeds classroom.
- GM has spoken to teachers and MDS regarding cycling shorts under uniform and expressed that it is not uniform.
- Spoke about amount of emails and whilst the office do try to condense the amount sent, there will always be a certain number of emails sent out to parents.
- LOTW email now being sent Fridays instead of Wednesdays.

### **New Matters to Discuss**

#### **School Photos**

- GM and Sally fed back the discussion's we've had between Fizz photographers and ourselves. They will not come back to school to retake photos. Our contract runs out at the end of this school year so from Oct 2024 we will be trying a new photographer.

#### **KCC – Road safety update**

- Thank you to Ann Read who has helped to make some real progress since spring on the current issues we've had at the road crossing outside the school.
- There has been a positive outcome on some new features being put in to place to help with the safety such as a barrier being installed opposite the school on the pavement. The current sign is being replaced with a School sign.
- Hoping to push for the speed to be reduced to 20 miles per / hr.

#### **Diamond Celebration – 60 years old**

- GM asking if anyone knows of anyone who can be part of our celebration. Singers, bands etc. If anyone has any ideas then to please feedback.
- PTA to get involved.
- Due to have a meeting regarding it shortly, if anyone would like to attend, please do so. Date TBC.

#### **Expansion**

- There is a need to expand. As of next September, reception class will be 90 children resulting in a 3 class intake. 1 New teacher, 1 new TA.
- Building full 7 classrooms, but will take 30 additional each year until each year group has 3 classes.
- Parents did query Senco, being full time as more children.

## **Feedback from class Reps**

### **Walmer**

- Poor quality photos, also very expensive.

New photographer prices are a lot more competitive so we are hoping that they become more accessible for parent to purchase.

- Swimming – will we find anything out about our child's progression and how they are getting on?

Yes, at the end of term, you will find out if your child has managed 25 metres or more.

### **Dover**

- Parents are sadly not involved in the day to day of their children's education, We are not aware of what our children have done in the day and for reception years it is challenging to find this information out directly from the children as some may have speech and language delays and our children tend not to be as informative at 4 years old.

Unfortunately this is not feasible. Parents can see updates on twitter. Current curriculum is also on the school website.

Talked about adding in the expectations of what to expect in terms of updates, when parents have their 'meet the teacher' meeting at the beginning of the term.

- Parents would strongly like to suggest an app be introduced (teams or class email) in which the class teacher is able to tell us as parents daily what the class has done, This will enable us to engage with our children and discuss their days.

As above.

- Parents were very panicked and shocked when our children were mixing with older children in the school who are their 'buddies', Although this is a lovely thing to do we as parents should of been informed about this prior to buddies taking place especially if our very young children are mixing with different sexes who are much older than reception years.

Other parents shared views that they feel it is a positive experience. It teaches Yr R and Y6 about building relationships and helps with socialisation. The year 6 children are positive role models and the younger children look up to them. Again, maybe going forward the Buddy system could be explained at 'Meet the teacher'. Please reassure parents that the Teacher and TA's are always present and meeting their buddy happens within the school setting.

Going forward we will look at getting Year 6 to do a 'Buddy' piece of writing for new starters and for parents to see.

- I personally (Bella mum) would like to express myself and husbands gratitude to the school with their understanding and support with collecting and dropping Bella to school this is a huge help to us and we are very grateful.

Thank you, this is great to hear.

**Hever** – no feedback

**Rochester**

- School dinners, price gone up, and quality down.

GM explained that the kitchen are limited and on a tight budget. Some teachers choose to have the school dinners and feel that it is OK. The kitchen staff are up against restrictions, in terms of additional flavouring of ingredients but they work hard and do the best they can. It was noted that the price has gone up everywhere in the economy.

**Pevensey**

- Residential trip – will the proposed meeting be before the first payment on the 8/12.

Yes, the meeting will be before this date.

- Bikeability – Can they come in their own clothes all day?

Yes, this is fine. Please wear suitable clothes for riding a bike and waterproofs if the weather is changeable.

- Recycle Michael – Can the position be changed? Looking in to moving it so that it is more visible and so that accessing it doesn't require walking across the car park. Do we need it still?

**Herstmonceux**

- Residential, parents questioned the price.

The school have looked at alternatives but they have been more expensive. The food at current one and the accommodation is at a good standard. This year it is approx. £30 more than last year. This is because Year 6 are going in June rather than May (due to SAT's being a different date this academic year).

- Head girl and boy process took too long.

GM agreed, however there were a lot of strong applicants this year, hence why other roles for the children have been made to support the Head girl and boy. To make it a fairer process, it was opened up to the School council, but the school council needed to form before this could be carried out.

- Year 6 would like to know what the school do and what parent's do in terms of Year 6 leavers.

Year 6 teachers to send a letter to Year 6 parents to outline and highlight activities which the school do.

### **Canterbury**

- Are race, culture, backgrounds etc covered in PSHE?

GM responded that yes they are as well as various cultural experiences which the school run with external people coming in to talk to the children.

### **Leeds**

- With Mrs Little leaving at the end of January for maternity who will be taking over?

GM explained that there is a new teacher and that we are lucky that she can have a longer handover with Mrs Little before she starts. There will be a letter going out to explain this to the parents.

- It has been noticed that it appears that a parent drove in to the carpark when they potentially shouldn't be in the carpark and it was questioned if there is a procedure for this.

GM explained that there is a procedure for this and it should only be blue badge holders unless there is another exception where the office or GM know about.

Please remind parents that guidelines for the carpark were sent out in September and these can also be found on the school website for anyone to read and refer to.

### **Scotney**

- It has been noted that some parents look to be helping themselves to lost property when it is put out at the end of day for checking.

Please can we remind parents the importance of labelling up their children's clothes. We have a lot of unnamed belongings in the lost property.

- Swimming came up again, some parents have paid for private lessons and it becomes expensive when having to pay for school swimming lessons. Also there were concerns about different abilities being put together for the class.

GM explained that swimming is part of the curriculum. Unfortunately opting out is not an option. There have been many alternatives looked at but currently we are continuing with lessons at Maidstone leisure centre. GM reassured parents that children are split in groups determining on their ability.

- Year 4, can they change separately for PE?

Year 5 and 6 change separately but there is not enough space for year 4 to do so. If there is a child who feels uncomfortable, the child or the parent should speak to their teacher to arrange a separate place to get changed.

- Quality and quantity of food in ASC questioned as price increased.

GM reassured that the choices are still the same but will check with Mrs Nibbs.

#### **Ann read**

- Nothing from class but did volunteer to help with website updating if needed. It was suggested that the Website could be used as a method for communication more, that some parents may not know how to navigate around it to find the information require. It was noted that the curriculum was not on there ready for the September start and some classes reported that spellings are not on the website.

GM said that the curriculum should be on there for September but teacher are often requiring to work on the curriculum up until start of school, but it will go on as soon as possible in September or before.

#### **Actions to be taken from this meeting**

- Year 6 to do a 'Buddy' piece for New year R's **GM**
- Bikeability – Year 6 come can come in already in the own clothes suitable for Bikeability **GM**
- Recycle Michael – move it, do we need it? **GM**
- Yr 6 – Send a letter to highlight what school does for Y6 leavers **PA and HM**
- Share assessment year planner with parents – from previous meeting **GM**
- Check what food is being offered at ASC and has it changed? **GM**

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm**