



Coxheath

Primary School

Parent Council Minutes – 14/03/24

Attending

- Giacomo Mazza – Headteacher
- Simon Malone - Governor
- Sally Lang (Minute taking)
- Katie Price– Leeds
- Chelsea Farley – Rye
- Angie Holland – Scotney
- Amy Jones – Rochester
- Ann Read – Canterbury
- Joy Ogbonna – Pevensey
- Francesca Boulton – Allington
- Sarah Howe – Herstmonceux
- Louise Barden – Tonbridge
- Alison Farrant – Haver

Apologies

- Dover – Jess Sharpe
- Bodiam – no rep
- Sam Southby – Thurnham
- Victoria Gest – Walmer

Actions to be taken from last meeting

- Website should be up to date. Since the last meeting it has been looked at and simplified so that it should be easier to navigate. Please let us know if you spot anything which needs amending / updating.
- Swimming badges. We believed that they had been given out, but have been informed from Walmer parents that some are still missing theirs. AJ (parent) and LH have actioned a list of children still waiting for their badges,
- Pevensey Mud. We are aware of the problem with mud and water outside Year 1 and 6. This is constantly being looked at and cleaned, however as soon as it rains it comes back. There are plans to look at the drainage.

- KS1 playground / path. It has been fed back that parents are still blocking the path and not waiting on the playground. GM to speak to SLT and teachers to remind parents.

New Matters to Discuss

60th Celebration

- Date confirmed 28th June. Ideas still being discussed, but children will be involved with some sort of performance. Parents are invited in from lunchtime.
- A stage has been hired with a roof. PTA are contributing towards the cost of the day / stage.
- At 3.10/3.15 children will be sent back to class for parents to collect. 3.30-6.30 parents and children can stay for a guest performance.
- Considering inflatables, BBQ, bar, picnic.
- Finer details TBC. Another meeting around the celebrations is happening 15th March.
- The 60th celebration will replace our usual Summer festival.
- Does anyone know any Samba bands? AR (parent) asking her contact.
- PTA contributing to T-shirts. Parents email into office if they need a larger size.
- Does anyone know a sponsor for the T-shirt? Logo will be printed on the back of the T-shirts.
- Can parents offer up 15 minutes or so on the bar on the day to help out?
- By invite only, inviting ex staff members, Parish Councillor, key members of the community.

Reading Plus

- A new reading initiative to support reading for those that require it. Feedback from parents is positive and already seeing a difference in children's reading.
- GM did mention that we are always after volunteer readers. If anyone is available to give up some time to come in a read with children please let the office know.

Dover

- Toilets. GM informed meeting that this has been addressed with the Midday supervisors. The amount of lanyards to let a child go to the toilet have been increased and a discussion has been had to let a child go if there are no lanyards, however the amount of children going at one time does have to be monitored. The discussions were had with MDS 2-3 weeks ago, so this should all be in action.

Rye

- Harlequins gate (large one at beginning of driveway) is often open when children are in school still. GM explained that we are in constant discussions with Harlequins and will continue to watch this.
- Children are late coming out of Rye. GM to discuss with teacher.
- Speed limit. Eco council presented to KCC Highway. Simon, the KCC Councillor is working on this and hopefully a 20mile/hr speed limit will be put in place during term time.
- AR mentioned that they should be painting 'SLOW' on the road and is chasing this up.

Thurnham

- 'Keep of grass sign'. Has been moved, Site manager looking at some way to round corners or have a protected covers on the corners. Please remind parents to keep off the grass.
- Reminder for teachers / and children to ensure that school jumpers are either worn or on their person (i.e. in school bag before the pupils leave for the day. There has been a number of occasions where children come out without their jumper. GM said that there are daily discussions to remind children but a reminder to parents that teachers are organising 30-32 children.
- At school finish time, the teacher always lets the children get to the door and then there parents aren't there. Would be easier to call them up to leave when parents are there. Would be a quicker pick up and less kids standing around by the door. GM to remind teachers to get children ready on time at end of day.
- Some parents have mentioned that on occasions their child has been unable to get pudding at lunch time as there hasn't been any left. SL spoke to the kitchen and they believe that there are always puddings available throughout all the year groups.
- Better communication for example, there seemed to be some confusion over the spellings for this term. Misaligned dates, when their tests are etc. GM said that he is reluctant to this idea as it is a busy environment, writing in 30 learning journals is not possible. Impactful changes should be communicated but spellings would not be brought forward, may change but would be a day later rather than earlier.
- Feedback re use of Twitter. Not many parents seem to use it, so parents want to put some ideas forward for better ways of sharing updates and posts. GM welcomes anyone who would like to come up with new ideas.

Allington

- Sports day is confirmed for 12th July with a reserve date of 17th July.
- Both Allington and Scotney parents mentioned that parents feel Rock Steady is expensive and activities like this should be communicated to the parents first. GM and RL reassured that there was no hard sales. Other teachers that saw the workshop on the day agree with this also. Part of the company's criteria is that any pupil premium child who is interested in Rock steady will match fund it. There are also other scholarships available at school for pupil premium children. If anyone is interested, please contact the school office.

- One parent but echoed by several was that they find the new newsletter format difficult to navigate. It was discussed in the meeting that parents were not keen that you had to scroll to the bottom of the Newsletter to see Key Dates. These have now been moved further to the top.

Tonbridge

-Tonbridge class would like to query the toilet pass process that's been brought in recently. RL explained to the Parent council members that every child has a Toilet pass (or more if required), which is kept in their tray. The pass is to help children to think and to be responsible of their timings and when they really need to use the toilet. This is to help the sometimes constant use of the toilets and disruption to the teaching and the class. In addition to their pass, every child is able to use the toilet at break and lunch times and when they are in the cloakroom area.

- Lack of year 4 posts on twitter. GM reminding teachers
- Cost increases for breakfast/after school clubs and the increase of cost for school meals and the lack of selection for the money. GM reminded the meeting that this has been discussed in previous meetings. The school feels that the price is competitive in clubs before and after school. Staff have checked school meals and have fed back that they have not changed.

New dinner menu for Spring is being sent out as soon as we get it from the catering company.

Rochester

- Lunch time detentions. GM explained that when the older children are going over to lunch, Year 1 and 2 are back in class learning and the noise level is too loud. Lunch time is a free time for them to have discussions, however we do ask that children are quiet in the corridor. If the behaviour is not right then it needs to be addressed. A letter has now gone out to explain this to the parents. GM said that they may look in to Year 5 going to the dinner hall first rather than play first.

- The food quality has gone downhill recently (even on a Friday) and the plates have been dirty. SL, having spoken to the Midday supervisor lead, she has reassured us that the plates all go through an industrial dishwasher. There may be stains due to curry etc but please be assured that the midday supervisors do check plates and food.

- Quality of food discussed again. SL has spoken to Midday lead and they feel that it is the same as it has always been. Teachers also have school dinners here and have not fed back any change.
- Children have raised to their parents that when Mr. Mazza or Miss Evenden are in the dinner hall the dinner ladies treat them differently. GM and BE will continue to check in on the dinner hall.

Canterbury

- School Trips – when can we receive more info about the trips including costs? This information will be sent to Year 5 shortly as soon as it is all confirmed.
- Swimming – Info now received thanks; can you confirm what the changing room arrangements are? It was explained in the meeting that girls and boys are separated in group changing rooms. There is a teacher on the door and teachers either end of the corridor whilst they are getting changed.
- CAT Tests – More information about the CAT tests please before children take them and/or before parents evening when results are shared. GM to speak to teachers regarding information. It was also discussed that GM will look at telling parents prior to assessments.

What is going well

Allington – Parents are really happy with the collection process from Allington. It is easy and quick (and they are released on time). It makes collection easy. There have been comments that many of the other classes (siblings) are often late, take ages to move the children out etc and ours are always out on time and processed quickly.

Leeds - Massive thank you to all the staff for World Book Day, to all the staff joining in and those out on the front gates.

Walmer- The only feedback I've had from my class is to pass on thanks for reconsidering the place year 3 will go to on their school trip. All the parents are really happy with the choice and feel it is good value for money.

Actions to be taken from this meeting

- More twitter pictures **GM to speak to teacher**
- Swimming badges – **LH / RH / AJ**
- Children late coming out of Rye – **GM**
- School Trips – list to be sent out at beginning of year - **DF**
- CAT Tests information – **GM**
- Assessments, **GM** to look at telling parents prior to assessments.
- 'Keep off grass sign' – Looking at rounding corners or adding protective cover - **SH**
- KS1 – Parents to wait on playground instead of queuing along path. This is ongoing. - **GM to speak to teachers to ask them to tell parents. Dover, Rye, Hever please can you ask parents to collect from the playground instead of queuing along pavement.**

Date of next meeting: 23rd May at 2pm