

# **Bunbury Aldersey C of E Primary School Parent Council Minutes**

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Present – Nic Badger: Jen Duckett: Emma Knight: Julie Sweet: Janine Fairclough: Lisa Williams: Jo Tillett: Vanessa Quirk-Green: Lynne Dickens:

Apologies – Caroline Nuttall: Julia Dancy: Kathleen Carline: Helen Bennet: Jennifer Yates: Simone Anderson:

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.

1. New Appointments. Chair – Jen Duckett; Secretary – Janine Fairclough: Y2 Helen Bennett: YR Simone Anderson: Y2 Jennifer Yates: Y3 Kathleen Carline: Y5 Joe Tillett: Parent Governor - Emma Jordan – Stout.

2. Head Update – The school development plan this year is focusing on Maths which concerns breadth, fluency and understanding of the subject as a whole rather than having levels as was the case in previous years. The children will be taught how to reason as opposed to just regurgitating facts. The school will be using the support of First4maths in applying this new approach.

English will still be on the agenda and will be carrying on from last years' success when the whole school focused on one book.

Expanding on subject leaders there has been formation of faculties within the MAT to allow smooth development of themes during staff absences. The leaders of each faculty are will be Mrs Badger – Humanities ; Mrs Todd – Arts and Mr Goodwin for STEM.

Mrs Badger has also introduced workshops for PHSE and is developing this within the school. This is primarily to make sure that the children are happy and any problems can be spotted quicker. Boris the Robot launch November 6th (Mind matters). Important for students and staff.

3. Update on the marketing committee set up by Emma Jordan-Stout – nothing happened so far. JD to ask previous Chair about it.

4. Take away homework. It was agreed to reduce the amount required to just one piece per half term instead of two as it is putting pressure on some parents especially as they may have more than one child in the school. It is to be made very clear to parents that this is work for the children and is not expected to be of adult quality!
5. Y4 asked if there is a need to wear swimming caps during the swimming lessons they have at Nantwich as apparently the swimming pool itself do not enforce this. NB to check.
6. Parents were asking for information on homework and to maybe have a diary. NB advised that the information is readily available on the class website and that parents can always write in the reading record books if they need to. It would too time consuming for the teacher to write what is happening that week for each child.
7. IT safeguarding. Is it possible to have the information that the high school receives fed back to Bunbury especially the concern with easy access to children's information via Instagram etc. NB to investigate. JS asked if we can have another chat by the NSPCC as some parents missed this. NB to ask.
8. LD asked if the school should contribute to the Church War Memorial plaques that were stolen but NB seemed to think that all the money plus extra had already been raised.
9. Lost property. There are no set bins for lost property except the classroom ones. NB said that there didn't seem to be an excess at the moment and if items are found they are taken around the classrooms first. If it does become an issue the NB will look into a different way to locate the owners. Parents are allowed to come into school to look for anything that is lost.
10. Sports for girls. Some parents are concerned that the girls are losing interest by Year 5 and 6 especially now that Mrs Waddington has left. Miss Hickson has taken over the sports events and will look into encouraging them.

11. Parents in Reception asked that a member of the class could have been on the gate to see the children into school as it was a little daunting as they only had 2 days to settle in this year - NB agreed to discuss with staff as also need to be present in the classroom. VQG suggested that maybe the Year 5 children could take their buddy in. NB was asked if Mr Parks had been replaced and she said that there is a site manager for all three schools and he spends one week out of 3 here. They are advertising for a caretaker for 3 hours a day. A member of staff is currently at the end of the drive at the beginning of the day.

12. Communication. JD asked if there could be a frequently asked questions section on the school website so that new parents could see the answer to these. Questions such as what are the houses, team points, how much bagels are etc.

Personal emails for the teachers have been removed as they were getting a lot of correspondence from parents that were not to do with their child's learning and so taking up valuable time and there were concerns for staff wellbeing. NB is quite happy to forward on any emails to the relevant teachers and any admin type query is to be sent to the office. Personal emails will be replied to within 24 hours. Make very clear to parents that email to Mrs Badger will not automatically escalate, but is merely a way to get personal messages to the staff.

13. School dinners. Parents concerned over what their children are getting as there are no menus on the school website. NB advised that we are changing from Shropshire back to Cheshire East so a menu should be available after half term. JF asked if they could do a tasting session so the parents can see and taste the quality. JD asked if the Reception children are monitored and NB advised that all the children are.

14. Parking at school time is an ongoing problem especially on the corner of The Highlands and opposite the zig zag lines. NB to once again send out a reminder and to ask for number plates and photographs of repeat offenders. Number plates of offending cars will be published in the newsletter.

15. Parental/Carer involvement. This is encouraged and maybe put on the class website so that parents know that they can be involved. Everyone needs to be DBS checked though. A register of interest is being considered.

16. Uniform. It was agreed that it looks lovely although some parents say it does not wash well. And availability is still a problem. Is there any chance ties can be stored at school? NB to ask the school store.
  
17. After school clubs. There are more choices now with the addition of some of the teacher led clubs but parents still feel that the North West coaching only offers rugby and football which does not appeal to a lot of the children – boys and girls alike. Can they offer anything else? NB to ask. This situation has improved since the agenda was set.
  
18. The world city topics has been a great success. The parents have been impressed with the engagement and enthusiasm of the children.
  
19. A.O.B NB has asked that parents are mindful of any allergies when making Birthday cakes for the class. LD asked if a list of allergies for the year group be posted so that parents know.
  
20. Date of future meetings. This has been decided as the third Tuesday of each half term so that it is consistent. Time will be 3.15pm to suit the majority of members. Therefore the date of the next meeting will be 21<sup>st</sup> November.
  
21. Meeting closed.