



*'In unity we learn and play in the loving hands of God'*

## Bunbury Aldersey CofE Primary School Parent Council Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Present:

	Name	Child's Year	Membership Category	Membership Commenced
√	Julie Sweet	R	Parent	September 16
x	Emma Knight	R	Parent	September 16
√	Nic Webster	1	Parent	November 15
√	Kate Anderson	1	Parent	May 15
√	Jo Tillett	2	Parent	September 16
√	Julia Dancy	2	Parent	September 16
√	Rachel Thirlwall	3	Parent	May 15
√	Lisa Williams	3	Parent	September 16
√	Kate Catherall	4	Parent	May 15
x	Caroline Nuttall	4	Parent	September 16
√	Lynne Dickens	5	Parent	September 16
√	Vanessa Quirk-Green	5	Parent	May 15
√	Roz Kepke Smith	6	Vice-Chair	May 15
√	Emma Jordan-Stout	6	Chair	May 16
√	Fiona Todd		Headteacher	
√	Nic Badger		Head of School	

	Action
1) Apologies received from Emma Knight and Carline Nuttall. Lynne Dickens and Julia Dancy arrived late.	
2) Mrs Crotty explained what it means to be a Rights Respecting School and how this ties in with the school's education ethos. Being an RRS puts children at the centre of decision making. Suggested children meet with the parent council. RRS will be addressed in assemblies.	
3) Minutes of the last minute were accepted as a true record.	
4) Actions from last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Parking.</b> Still regular offending and often by one or two cars. Number plates will be passed on to police. Parents and members of parent council to be encouraged to keep reporting plates.</li> </ul>	



b) <b>Residential Visit Questionnaire Update.</b> None given.	
c) <b>School Uniform.</b> Update to be published this week.	FT
d) <b>Academy Update.</b> Still on track for 1 April 2017, waiting for Dept for Education. Waiting for logo competition results.	
e) <b>Playtime Update.</b> None given.	
f) <b>Bike Rack.</b> Mrs Kepke-Smith to chase up.	RKS
g) <b>Reply Emails from School Office.</b> Not always getting responses to emails to office and messages left with the office not always getting through to class teachers.	
h) <b>Lost School Uniform.</b> Mrs Jordan-Stout to get this organised.	EJS
5) <b>Resignation of Chair and Vice Chair.</b> Both the Chair and Vice Chair will be standing down at the end of the summer as their children are leaving the school – need volunteers. Agreed other wishing to stand down at the end of 2 years’ should also notify classes and request volunteers. KEC intends to stand down in May 17. It would be helpful if replacements phase in over the last two or three meetings still including the current Chair and Vice Chair. If nobody volunteers to take over these roles, they will need to be advertised to all parents.	
6) <b>Disruptive Children.</b> Parents have expressed concerns where it is well known that particular children in the school are very disruptive and seems nothing is done until physical injury is caused. FT and NB reassured that there are procedures in place which the school have to and do follow. Can’t discuss individual children but they can discuss the procedures and protocols with individual parents who are concerned.	FT/NB
7) <b>Homework.</b> Concerns over take away homework, given late and not clear whether it is optional or not. FT confirmed that the school must set homework, as parents we can choose whether or not our children do it. The nature of take away homework fits with the ethos of the school. Agreed the language could be clearer, eg at present it says “you must do two”. Years 5 and 6 are confused when given homework covering areas not yet covered in class. Agreed areas should be flagged as pre-teach where applicable.	
8) <b>Stay and Play.</b> Only been 2 stay and play sessions so far this year. Reception children and parents really enjoy it, so please can we have some more?	
9) <b>Homework.</b> See above.	
10) <b>Blog.</b> Year 1 and 5 blogs not always kept up to date. Parents really like the blogs and they are read.	
11) <b>Take Away Homework.</b> See above.	
12) <b>Osper Cards.</b> Pre-paid debit cards for kids, if five sign up, a donation goes to PTA. Good way to give pocket money and parent gets email re how spent. Can be used from age of 8. EJS to provide more details.	EJS
13) <b>Water Bottles.</b> Concern that children not allowed access in class. NB and FT reported not allowed on tables but can ask and fetch from corridor at any time.	



<p>14) <b>School Marketing Proposals.</b> Issue raised by Governors. Numbers of pupils are down and we need a positive marketing campaign to address this. Mrs Chang works in marketing and is happy to assist but we need more volunteers amongst parents with a marketing/PR background. A request for volunteers to assist with twitter feeds, facebook etc. will go in the newsletter.</p> <p>15) <b>Year 5 Residential Trip.</b> There has been much concern amongst some parents who are not happy with the cost and not impressed with the website. The trip is more expensive than equivalent PGL experiences with guides/scouts etc. FT explained these activity trips are part of the PE curriculum the school is obliged to provide, and we cannot rely on all pupils going on similar scout/guide trips. Reported that some parents are not inclined to send their children. FT explained the school need to provide as many activities as possible to give every pupil the opportunity to shine, including those who may be better at these activities than academic ones. Queried possibility of a one night stay, but can only be booked as 2 or 3 nights. Costs of the Conway trip not yet received from Tarporley. There will also be a day trip to London (not residential) during the summer term after SATs. Agreed will obtain more feedback after the trip and parents with specific concerns to be directed to FT and NB. Some positive feedback about residential trips, in particular Y3 trip to Conover.</p> <p>16) <b>Healthy Snacks.</b> Concern over children bringing unhealthy snacks to school and whether these could be confiscated (as some schools do) to ensure compliance with healthy snacks rule. Instead, school to encourage healthy eating and help children make the right decisions. Previously when school have tried to impose tighter restrictions they received a number of complaints from parents. It may be possible to introduce stricter rules once we have converted to an Academy.</p> <p>17) <b>Attendance Pencils and Certificates.</b> Children at home with sickness and vomiting are getting upset about missing out on 100% attendance awards. Queried whether it is the child's fault if ill and whether we want to encourage children with contagious illness to attend school. NB said there was some leeway and no longer need 100% attendance, just within reasonable boundaries. Should address issue. This does not address other issue of disability discrimination. Where a child has a medical condition which means more regular absence, shouldn't be subjected to any detriment (even loss of awards) as equivalent in workplace would amount to disability discrimination. NB suggested parents notify school of genuine medical conditions. NB/FT will look at the policy again around medical needs and revert.</p> <p><b>UPDATE:</b> Since the meeting, Mrs Todd has confirmed that where a child has an officially diagnosed medical condition for which they regularly have no option but to miss school, these absences will not be counted when looking at which children have 100% attendance.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>FT</p> <p>NB/FT</p> <p>NB</p>
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- 18) **School Lunches.** Y5 always last in for lunch and facing reduced options. NB will look at moving Y5 up the rota list. Explained how lunch rota works.
- 19) **Chasewater Residential.** See 15 above.
- 20) **Miss Cork.** Very positive feedback regarding Miss Cork, who couldn't be more appreciated for all that she does.
- 21) **Parking Once Early Birds on Site.** Agreed shouldn't be too much of an additional burden given many parents walk/park on school lane anyway when dropping at early birds.
- 22) **Young Voices.** This year's Young Voices, with the new arrangement to include all KS2 children, caused some upset among some parents, particularly in Y3. The general feeling arose because it was felt this was a compulsory trip, with parents feeling they had little option but to buy tickets to view, and allow children to arrive back at school very late at night. Some Parents felt their decision to not allow their children to attend was being questioned. Some children who didn't attend were left feeling they were letting the school down. FT explained that children cannot be forced to go on trips, but that the school did need confirmation of numbers attending (which had not been made clear on the letters which appeared to be opt in and not opt out). FT apologised for any upset caused, and agreed that in future greater clarity around options, would be given. Interest in the event would be canvassed early, and communication would be improved. In the event 26 children stayed behind at school.

Equally, other parents, across all years, provided very positive feedback about Young Voices and how much those attending (and their parents) enjoyed it. Thanks to be passed on to those teachers who accompanied the children and were so enthusiastic during a very long day.

- 23) **Governor Update.** None
- 24) **Head Update.** FT reported that John is dissolving his sports business and that with short notice the school will need to make alternative arrangements. Holiday clubs will be provided this half term as promised. Push to answer Cheshire East questionnaire on budgets, the first 4 questions being the most important. Parents to spread the word regarding answering the questionnaire. The school will struggle to continue to operate as it does now with any further decrease in funding. This will be addressed in the next email from FT, setting out again the funding issues the school is facing.
- 25) **AOB.** None
- 26) **Next meeting.** Tuesday 28 March at 3.15.

FT