

Friars Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

Meeting Date: 7th October 2021 – 10:00am

Present at meeting:

Parent/Carer	Year groups represented:
Frances Woodman	Year 5
Claire Duncombe	Year 5
Scott Fowell	Year 3 and Year 1
Rob Davis	Year 1 and Year 3
Wendy Hall	Year 4
Sharon Pease	Year 5
Also present Chris McClay Scott Roche	Principal Vice Principal

Items to consider	Action
<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received from Claire Davis & Kelly Hatton 	
<p><u>Update</u></p> <p>Membership was discussed and it was agreed to advertise on newsletter</p>	School to place advert in newsletter for new parents
<p><u>Feedback received from parents on return to school after lockdown</u></p> <p>There were many positive comments received about the return to school including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brilliant return, the children have been really engaged The distance learning this time around was great, it's been a whole hearted approach and really pleased with how it's gone Communication has been really clear and realistic in advising that an event 'could' happen but depending on restrictions 	
<p><u>Educational Visits</u></p> <p>The council discussed the issue of asking parents to make a contribution towards school trips. The school expressed that the only way these can go ahead is by asking for a contribution and all parent felt this was fair and balanced.</p> <p>Parents commented that the lead times into trips need to be longer to give parents enough time to pay and that an instalments option should always be given. The school agreed to look into early advertising of trips and the instalments option on parent pay.</p>	School to advertise dates well in advance on newsletter and to investigate instalments option
<p><u>Summer Plans</u></p> <p>The school shared the fact that educational visits or visitors into school have taken place or are planned in all year groups. This includes a year 6 one-night camp on the school field. We feel that we are doing a lot more for our children than other local schools. This was acknowledged and appreciated by parents</p>	

<p><u>Pabulum School Meals</u></p> <p>The school began by sharing the story so far of Pabulum’s introduction to Friars and despite not having the usual start due to COVID, that their philosophy of better ingredients, fresh food cooked from scratch and not using processed food is one the school wants to share. However, despite roast dinners and fish Friday being popular, dinner uptake is generally lower than previously. Parents were asked for their feedback and commented as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No packed lunch option – my child won’t try anything new • My child won’t eat if they don’t like it or don’t recognise it. Familiarity of the food would help and I worry about the children that don’t like anything on the list having to pay for the cost of supplying a packed lunch – Could there be a taster session? This was acknowledged as a good idea by several parents. • Portion size seems way too small for a KS2 child. Children have been hungry through the afternoon and asking for snacks upon leaving school. • No alternative given if don’t like what’s on offer so children missing meals or going hungry • Could the food on offer be incorporated into lessons i.e. lasagne for Italy etc. • Could photographs be provided of the meals so children/parents can see what it is • Meat Free Monday is not popular – still give vegetarian option but not complete day 	<p>This will be raised at the next meeting with pabulum</p>
<p><u>Mental Health and Wellbeing</u></p> <p>The school shared that we have recently become a mental health and wellbeing school. New developments have included team-building sessions for years 5 and 6, the plan to create a wellbeing pupil forum and letter boxes in each classroom for children to post any worries or concerns they may have. Parents felt these were good measures especially around the recent lockdowns.</p> <p>Parents asked how teacher mental health is managed. School advised that there are several initiatives including a wellbeing week, staff meeting time carefully considered and well balanced, open door policy, wellbeing raffle.</p>	
<p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>The school are having daily issues around the use of ‘Whatsapp’ and social media with inappropriate content being shared outside of school amongst pupils. The parent council were advised of our processes that have included letters home, the issue of age appropriate guides and parents being called into school to discuss. In further response to these issues, the school have arranged for the 2 Johns to deliver online safety training to the whole school community including parents and police officers from Southend and the MET will be speaking to each class in upper key stage 2. We advised that previous workshops have been poorly attended.</p> <p>Parents asked whether future workshops could include working alongside their child to generate more interest and said further adverts should be sent. It was also asked if school has a safeguarding board to share common issues with others. Parents were advised that Portico have the SWIM group that oversee safeguarding, wellbeing, inclusion and mental health for the trust. We also take part in the Southend safeguarding forum meetings.</p>	<p>School to ensure good publicity of 2 Johns event</p>
<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents do not always social distance and turn up too early. School will monitor and communicate to parents if necessary. 	<p>SLT to look into</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking on roads outside school is dangerous. School advised would mention on newsletters and would speak to council/police for presence at busy times.• Presence of gangs around underpass is a worry to children leaving on their own from after school clubs. School have recently reinforced to pupils that should return to school if they have any worries.• The security of the school site was discussed – Advised that Mr Cornwell the site manager does a daily sweep of the school and all staff monitor areas before use. School advised that we are a very secure site.	School to add message to newsletter and call council
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