

Parent Body meeting

13.11.17 - 2:00 pm Small Hall

Attendees: Ryan Charman, Steph Rowberry, Rachael Cant, Katherine Greenwood, Justine Bruce Michelle Humphrey, Wendy Rosewell, Mary Brezeanu, Sally Fuller, Carole Francis, Sarah Arthrell, Stacey Tilsley, Heidi Smith, Dena Blake

Apologies: Heidi Smith,

Agenda Items

	Agenda item	Forum Feedback
	Welcome	
1	School dinners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of jacket potatoes 	<p>Trudy makes 242 meals each day for the main meals and 20-30 jacket potatoes. She has spoken to staff about the possibility of rotating the classes so it isn't always the same class at the back of the queue. Trudy confirmed there is always plenty of food for the main meal; she always does more than enough for the numbers. The jacket option is really only a back-up if the child will not eat the main. The wasting of jacket potatoes was raised and if doing more would be an option to cater for the children who miss out. Trudy confirmed there are always jacket potatoes in the bin, which other children could have had. All agreed that you would never be able to get this 100% right. A jacket potato day was muted, but WR clarified that the government do not like to encourage the jacket potato option, as it does not have the same nutritional value as a main meal. All agreed that the rotation option would be good to try. Review at the next meeting.</p>
2	Sickness versus persistent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • absence and school communication around this. 	<p>Explained that we have a legal obligation to demonstrate that we monitor attendance. Mrs Hogan ran through her role and how attendance works. When she first started communications to parents were based on percentage attendance that caused concern with parents. This has been changed to reflect sessions of absence.</p> <p>Medical, dental and sickness absences that are authorised still affect attendance. Mrs Hogan asked parents to consider that if a child has a temperature, parents administer calpol and then send them in.</p> <p>Clarification was given about the 48 hour rule for sickness and diarrhoea. Public Health England suggest 48 hrs after last episode of sickness/diarrhoea for genuine bugs. The school are happy to accept children back after 24 hours if it is clearly not a bug and was a result of mucus build up from colds.</p>
3	Year Group blogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To show events 	<p>The school website is currently being updated. Blogs are under review. Very time consuming for staff to keep updated. No budget to have a designated member of staff just for blogs. Might replace with a weekly whole school update. Feedback will be given at the next meeting.</p>
4	Inset days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance notice 	<p>Inset days: We set a year in advance. More than that is difficult as INSET days are to provide staff with CPD linked to SDP priorities – these are in turn linked to end of year data. SDP planning is done annually and CPD/inset is then linked to this.</p>

		Mrs Skinner confirmed that it would be rare for a school to start the school year without at least one inset day in September.
5	<p>Parentmail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce/streamline 	<p>Mrs Skinner invited suggestions for how to streamline parentmail.</p> <p>Groups for clubs – some faults with this as members may change a lot.</p> <p>Remember to send attachments as PDF and not word docs.</p> <p>There is a parentmail app that is more user friendly than email for parents to use. Saves them going into each email, as it shows in the title of the message what it is about. Only need to read the ones relevant to you.</p>
6	<p>Weekly newsletters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fridays please 	<p>Not the staff's fault. All proof read by members of SLT. If they are out/tied up that day – it can delay the proof reading. Will remind all staff and SLT members as soon as possible.</p> <p>Parents raised the point that it helped in terms of having the weekend to help their children with any issues or discuss with them their learning experiences.</p> <p>Would be communicated back to staff to find another SLT member who was free to proof read if the other was called to deal with something urgent. Point made that SLT will always make great efforts to proof read the newsletters, but that any child related issues/safeguarding etc would be the priority.</p>
7	<p>PTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information on website • Financial report 	<p>There is no statutory obligation to publish this. WS to liaise with PTA to discuss communicating what the PTA spend their money on for the school. WS cannot stress enough how much the PTA support the school with books and resources.</p> <p>Revisit the idea of the PTA website in January. One idea was put a counter on the parent's website to show how much parents are raising for something big. Need to communicate why the Christmas Fayre is so important.</p>
8	<p>Adventure playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repairs 	<p>Quotes for repairs from KCC is over £3000. Structures are timber, sunk in ground – no concrete footings when built 10 years ago. It will just keep rotting. Looking to try and use the next instalment sports premium to replace with a fitness playground. Looking for quotes/companies at the moment. (Possibly a good idea for fundraising for the PTA).</p>
9	<p>Sharing of home learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging students engagement • Homework sheets • Homework book 	<p>No evidence that 'homework' improves children's academic outcomes. However, it is the concept of also promoting learning outside of school that we are invested in, learning through collaboration as well as learning that promotes independency (research skills, practical learning etc). It is not to send out worksheets that children do in isolation, or without the assistance of their class teacher especially if it is a concept they have struggled with in class. The parents, teachers and children contributed ideas to this last year.</p> <p>Home learning is not compulsory.</p> <p>Parent's views were that a particular year group one class publishes the homework, another doesn't. Consistency applied across the school would be good.</p>

		<p>Parents said it should be marked.</p> <p>Our home learning ideas are in response to a pupil and parent questionnaire (Jan 17). The headteacher is conscious of teachers' current workload in terms of marking.</p>
10	<p>Class dojo's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurrection of it? 	<p>Used by teachers to reward in class, behaviours, attitudes, work. Not to message class teachers through (as used previously). This doubles email systems which class teacher have to manage.</p>
11	Smart awards	To be discussed at the next parent body meeting
12	<p>Cake sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Away from the back door • Separate table in foundation stage area 	To be discussed at the next parent body meeting
13	Food technology evening classes	To be discussed at the next parent body meeting
14	Use of Film and TV clips in school	To be discussed at the next parent body meeting
15	Emails to staff	<p>Staff emails are coming up as the main reason for workload stress. They are being emailed at all hours of the day and staff feel pressured to respond immediately, as they come through on their phones. Despite protocols set by the school, parents still email at weekends and out of school hours. All emails will come through the office with the exception of management concerns, SENCO, headteacher, deputy head's and phase leaders. Please see the following emails:-</p> <p>Headteacher@brunswick-house.kent.sch.uk Deputy@brunswick-house.kent.sch.uk senco@brunswick-house.kent.sch.uk l.lemon@brunswick-house.kent.sch.uk – FS Leader c.kitchen@brunswick-house.kent.sch.uk – KS1 Leader s.fenniche@brunswick-house.kent.sch.uk – FS2 Leader</p> <p>Staff to discuss a contact book option for each child ready for January 2018.</p>

Points 11-14 will be discussed at the next meeting on 19th January 2018, along with any other relevant items raised by parents with their representative on the 12th January.