

Minutes of the Parent Voice meeting – Thursday 12th February 2015
Held in The Barn Cedar Studio

1. Welcome and introduction

Mr McIntosh (Deputy Head teacher) welcomed parents.

2. Minutes of last meeting and action points

- **Parent Pay for single dinners**

Mrs Paddon confirmed that this was possible but only for such circumstances as the cost was otherwise prohibitive due to the charges levied on the school. Mr McIntosh would keep this in mind for the next time a special dinner was planned.

- **Use of playground for football**

There are current risk assessments in place for the use of the playground for this and other sporting purposes.

3. Minibook/Tablet scheme

Mr McIntosh had reported the comments from the last meeting concerning this scheme. After considering parent feedback and other information it had been decided not to run this or any other ICT provision scheme this year whereby parents are asked to purchase individual equipment.

4. AOB

Parents' Evenings Forms

The forms that teachers prepare for Parents' Evenings had been shared with children in advance so that they could read the comments and add their own views on their learning, as was standard practice. However, it was reported that some children had been looking at each other's forms and this had led to some unhelpful commentary on their effort and attainment grades. Mr McIntosh said that the process of children reviewing and commenting on their forms was an important part of involving them in their own learning and assessment, so this would not change; however, it was important that children were reminded about each other's right to privacy. Mr McIntosh was sure that the majority of, if not all, teachers would carry out this exercise with this in mind and Mr McIntosh would bring this up as a reminder in advance of the next round of Parents' Evenings in October.

Homework

Concerns were raised about homework and this was discussed for a lengthy period of time. The main concerns were:

- Homework sometimes being set irregularly
- Instances of homework being inconsistent across classes in a year group and across sets in maths
- Athletics being underused
- Children not always getting feedback about their work
- Homework not always being collected in
- Homework not being visible at Parents' Evening in books or folders
- Homework instructions not always being clearly copied into the Learning Habit

Mr McIntosh regretted any lapses that had taken place between what the school has committed to do and what the actual experiences were regarding homework. The majority of the school's procedures involving homework were working and it was definitely not the case that such lapses were because homework was not valued. Although the format of and procedure regarding homework was going to change in the summer term, it was obviously important that homework would be working as it ought to in the five weeks of the next half term. Mr McIntosh would take back the comments made and was certain that parents would see improvements where necessary after half-term.

Staffing

Some questions were raised about the (unavoidable) current teaching staff disruption. Mr McIntosh reiterated the school's commitment to minimising any negative impact on children and their progress, which was obviously very challenging in such unprecedented circumstances where five full time members of staff were on maternity leave at the same time, spread over almost an entire year. Mr McIntosh was in a position to be able to confirm that Class 7 would retain Mr Crudgington until the end of the school year and that the only intended change to Class 4 was for him to return to his previous class teaching commitment before the end of the school year. Class 3 was also being taught by Miss Plumb until the end of the school year, as previously known. It was not possible, at that stage, to give any information about Class 6. Planning for next year's allocation of staff would be considered during the next two half terms and as mentioned, minimising experience of turbulence was a high priority. A suggestion was made that letters to each of the affected classes should be sent to keep parents updated. Mr McIntosh would discuss this with Mr McTaggart.

Football

Mr McIntosh was asked if the football coaches could encourage club members to wear tracksuit/jogging bottoms in such cold weather. Mr McIntosh would pass on this request.

Mathletics

A question was raised about all staff knowing how best to use Mathletics as some parents were concerned that new members of staff could be unaware. Mr McIntosh was not able to comment on individuals as he had not been involved in induction of new staff in every aspect of school life. However, he would make some checks and offer support where necessary.

5. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting would be in The Barn on Thursday 19th March at 2.15pm (refreshments from 2.00pm).

PLEASE NOTE: Since the meeting, Mr McIntosh has accepted a teaching commitment for the whole of Thursday 19th March. The next meeting will now take place on Friday 20th March at 2.15pm (refreshments from 2.00pm).