

Park Grove Parent Forum

Notes of meeting 15 June 2015

Comments from Ms Sawyer *in italics*

1. Notes from last meeting and agreement of "Terms of Reference" of the parent forum

Terms of Reference agreed

From last meeting - noted a complaint of dirty cutlery at lunchtimes – *I will look into it.*

Welcomed the new basketball hoop. Any chance of a lower one?

There is a problem that older children swing on the lower hoops and pull them down – we have tried buying lower hoops in the past and they have always been damaged quite quickly, usually on an evening. We can't afford an extra hoop right now as we have just spent money on the current hoop.

2. Subjects from parents emails and suggestion box:

a. Playtime -how different ages are mixed

A parent had suggested younger children be separated from older ones as they are exposed to inappropriate language etc. through contact with older ones.

The forum discussed this. They felt this was difficult to resolve. Any child can be exposed to older children through siblings etc. Also felt it was nice to mix ages and in many cases older children look after younger ones. Also could mean splitting siblings who like to see each other at playtime. Also felt difficult practically - would it mean a new fence?

Agree lots of positive points about mixing children. Separate areas would require more management and staff, and indeed logistics would be very difficult. Staff need to have a break themselves which would be hard to manage if they had to do more duties.

Discussion followed re the front playground being increasingly used for car parking. Unfair as this takes away children's play space and should we not encourage more staff to cycle, in the way children and parents are. Also noted the use of parking at the rear of school during weekend uses which can be dangerous when children playing at rear of school at weekends.

- Need for front playground for parking increasing. During summer felt that children have enough space at rear of school. When all parking confined to car park have to stack cars in, Mr Stoner and Claire end up spending significant amount of time in a day moving cars. The playground has always been used for parking in the Summer over the last 20 years.

- checking re. rear parking

Gary has said that the rear parking has to happen at weekends due to car park space. This has always been the case.

b. How children experience SATS

A parent had noted that at the parent/governor presentation last September, it was stated that KS1 children would not know they were sitting SATS but would be doing "quizzes" in the classroom. yet one of the L3 SATS had taken place in the hall on single tables as with yr 6 tests...

-this was a single instance when there was no other room available in the school. The teacher had checked with Ms Sawyer who was concerned but there had been no other option and the teacher had

felt that the children would be fine. These particular children had the confidence to sit the test. The result of the test only informs teacher assessment and is not the overall result.

Following on from this the forum noted that SATS etc. were changing next year and requested a parent evening to explain changes.

This is a possibility although at present government has not yet released all required guidance and staff still in training.

c. Parent Pay

This online system of payments for lunches, trips etc. in use at secondary schools and also some primary- e.g. St Wilfrids and Robert Wilkinson. Seems good idea will Park Grove consider it?

- already investigating different models and very keen. Could poss come back to forum to discuss final selection and way of working. Claire in the office will approach Hazel.

d. Skipping rope ban in playground.

Parents asked could this not just be managed and it seemed a shame to punish everyone. In general not enough playground equipment available?

-the level of misuse of the skipping ropes was so serious that the ban was felt appropriate. Not permanent and will be revisited in future.

The playground equipment has been lost and broken at a very high rate. This was bought with school council contribution. School council and school do not have funds to replace at present .

e. Minutes on website

A parent noted that Governor Minutes had not been uploaded since Sept 2014. Also PTA minutes - these are useful to see so that parents can understand how PTA decides what it will spend money raised (from parents!)

- governor minutes - human error and have now been uploaded. PTA have also been requested

f. Homework

Feels like teachers not taking that much interest in homework especially ks2 project. Not clear on hand in/presentation deadline (newsletters just state week not date) . Feeling that not all children get chance to present their work, is there much feedback?

All ks2 classes spend same amount of time presenting as their planning is done together. Have done questionnaires to children about homework and feedback has been positive. Will pass back to staff.

g. School Council

A question over School Council being encouraged to save money for ipads especially when school now fundraising for laptops. will take v long time to save for ipads?

- not "encouraged" but respond to requests eg Miss Land asked for funding for netball bibs. PTA had said they will match for ipads. But at moment council is preferring to save rather than spend. There is a long term school aim to buy enough ipads to have an ipads trolley. Note not a contradiction with

fundraising for laptops-this is a necessary upgrade and needed for National Curriculum work. Ipads additional.

h. School choir

There is no school choir upstairs and music provision in general seems low. Why not encourage more children's talents for music and dance skills in class assemblies, the core values encourage special talents. What about a children's orchestra?

- At present the 2 teachers who run choirs are away from school so not able to ask about this but any provision of clubs including music is always on a voluntary basis by teachers. Possible that some of the new staff may have an interest in music next year. Class assemblies -content is down to individual teachers however there has been lots of children playing music in good work assemblies.

i. English and Maths evening

Thank you to the staff, felt it was a really good idea and very useful

-will pass on. Note that all staff agreed to do this in their own time, all very pleased with the evening

Next Meeting – this will be in the new school term after the summer holidays. We will notify all of the date in the new term.