Springvale Primary School

Parent Council

Meeting Number 1

Date: Thursday 24th November 2017

Time: 6.00-7.30pm

Agenda:

1. Establish the group’s role
2. Key guidelines
3. Communication
4. School initiatives and feedback
5. AOB

Notes:

1. The group will meet termly but members can email/contact LMc about any issues that arise. LMc would like to be informed if an issue is causing concern or if a matter could be addressed. A meeting may be called for a significant issue but generally meetings should be termly- late on in each term and agenda items will be emailed to LMc to create an agenda. Some meetings may not be hosted by school but there is an expectation that any meetings will be written up as a balanced critique and emailed through to LMc as soon as possible.
2. Remain confidential at all times, don’t talk about individual children, parents or staff, it is about providing a voice for the group of parents that we serve, make yourself known (if only through our website so that other parents can share their views to be passed on), ensure that feedback is balanced with key positives and a few areas to develop. Share information that is given with a request to seek views and report back to school with a summary of views. This group is to work alongside the formal GB and the informal fundraising group (SPACE). The key role is to provide balanced and ongoing feedback to school about dinners, clubs, visits, curriculum, behaviour systems, policies, etc. The School Council may attend one meeting annually. A simple report to GB once per year might work well as a link too?

The most important aspect of ongoing feedback is about communication- how well do parents feel informed and involved?

1. Very positive feedback on the new communication systems, especially Twitter. A few areas to consider to make it even better…
	1. Vary the pupils who feature on Twitter- encourage staff to consider who is selected and ensure that all groups are included e.g. more/less confident
	2. Letters- some paper copies don’t come home and that causes confusion- e.g. recent 3 letters about home school agreement, safeguarding and local visits

School response: LM to send on email again and ask CR to send on paper again to all families. Clarify safeguarding letter on next newsletter about other families collecting, etc. Speak to staff about varying the children selected for rewards. LM explained that we have a tracking document now for star of the week, reward prizes (G2bG) and Captain’s Table.

1. Again, lots of positives about all of the new initiatives and the group are in agreement with the principles behind the new plans/policies, especially the rewarding of good behaviour. Things to consider…
	1. Parents’ Evening very positive- consider making it clearer that parents can arrive early and look at books as it takes time to look through them and is always better before seeing the teacher, and make it clearer that meetings can be more private if requested as in the afternoon, when the hall was quieter some conversations could be heard
	2. Merit points seem inconsistent, clarify what they are given for, who puts them on, how certificates are achieved- consider change of system?
	3. Behaviour system- consistency around use of amber, is there a verbal warning before amber as the policy suggests and how/when do children get back to green
	4. Excellent Ofsted feedback on Parent View noted- LM explained that bullying was the only slightly negative response and all others were very positive. Work to do around bullying and how children can report. LM said he wanted parents to judge us on how we help/deal with it. All parents agreed a significant issue that many class any incident or falling out as bullying and we need to work on the use/meaning of the word with all parties

LM response. Agree that we can look into all of the above and many are things we have discussed as an SLT already. Plans in place about work on bullying. Revisit merit systems for 2018/19 academic year and consider changes- consult pupils and parents closer to the time. Make Parents’ Evening points more clearly on letters closer to the time. Behaviour meeting planned for next Weds (29th) to discuss consistency around these types of matters.

1. AOB

Late stats on Twitter- only count as officially late after 8.55am but as we open at 8.45am we want all children to be here for a smooth start to the day. Newsletter and texts to address anyone coming regularly between 8.45 and 8.55am.

Next meeting: TBC in Feb/March 2018