Springvale Primary School

Parent Council



Spring Term 2018

Meeting #3

Date: Thursday 29th November 2018

Time: 6.30 to 7.45pm

Agenda:

1. Revisit the group membership and assess coverage of classes
2. Matters arising and improvements since the last meeting
3. Communication
4. Potential next steps

**Present: Helen T, Gina R, Kristianne T, Laura G, Tracey B, Michelle J and L McClure**

**Representing: F1 x 1, F2 x 1, Y1 x 1, Y3 x 4, Y4 x 2, Y5 x 2, Y6 x 2**

LM met with School Council to discuss their views and shared them with the PC before we started. Parents encouraged to share and celebrate key improvements but focus on areas where we could improve further and ensure that a wide range of parental views are shared.

1. All classes/age groups are now covered when all members are present. Welcomed Michelle to the group. Asked all members to ensure that they highlight their membership of the group to other parents when possible and I will ensure our website/newsletters mention it too.
2. Improvements since last time:

Club organisation- only one text/email about it, a week or so to peruse the clubs before bookings open, announcing when clubs launch, fact there are enough clubs and spaces to accommodate for most things so no crazy rush

Behaviour system tweaks- parents very positive about the system and it is now embedded

Merit system- tidied up and made simpler, linked to key certificates

Reading booklets- changes made to weekend and holiday reading based on feedback

1. Communication is now very strong- minor things to develop/consider in the future:
* Do we contact childcare (e.g. Rascalz) when a visit is late back, etc (for key things yes but not routinely as we are limited with time/staff and our parents use several childcare arrangements)
* Could staff email out class information, newsletters, homework, etc (we will look at training staff to use the email system or ask that key things are emailed to Head/office to share)
* Can we send texts to both main contacts (this is not possible as we would be charged per text to do this on our agreement/communication system)
* Encourage all parents to use email and minimise/eradicate the need for paper as much as possible (LM was keen to do this as much as possible as it saves cost and admin staff time- he has started to email lots of football events, etc and accepted emails as permission which is working well so far)
* Parents aren’t aware that they can see what their child has ordered/had for lunch- contact them ASAP about this! (LMc- we thought all parents knew from the original information we sent out! Will get a message out!)
* Parents’ Evening all very smooth and positive- well organised- 1 or 2 parents still stay much longer than 10 minutes which cause delays later in the evening- one parent asked if staff preferred that model as it is a long day and they naturally flag later on- LM said staff liked to do it in one day as most schools do 2 very late evenings back to back. Parents very positive about the helpful handout this time around. Asked if we could highlight what marking codes meant in books to help parents- LM to put a couple of laminated explanations on tables next time.
* Change of details- could we remind parents to update all details held in the office once per year rather than during the year. LM said we remind often as some parents don’t update us and we can’t make contact with them when their child is ill, for example, which could create a safeguarding/medical emergency
* Lots of parents with more than 1 child get more than copy of things sent out- waste of paper/non-environmentally friendly
1. Potential areas to address

Merit chart- children adding their own stars and removing for others in some classes? Is there a better way to record them?

Could clubs finish at the same time each day? (We have addressed this on most days but Pop Shop on a Tuesday creates the main issue- we can’t extend JAM and Patchwork but will speak to Audrey about potential 4.15 finish or other options)

Food- lots of parents still say that children are hungry, even in lower school. Some report very unusual meal combinations! Dry pasta and sweetcorn, for example. Who monitors this and makes sure that a child has an appropriate lunch? LM will discuss this with SMSA and kitchen staff.

Could we lock the MUGA until 9am and at 3pm as parents are ignoring the messages? Some parents and child still ride scooters and bikes in dangerous areas around school too. LM- we can but we shouldn’t need to- regular messages sent out. Will keep reminding people via tweets/texts/newsletters and monitor. LM noticed that some children aren’t supervised before school and that many in front of school are running around away from their parents- potential safety concern?

Start and end of the day- ensure that doors open at 8.45am prompt, especially when the weather is poor. This generally happens but sometimes not consistent. Some classes not ready to leave until well after 3.15pm and children have to go to places- swimming, dance, etc. LM said that we would talk to all staff as we ask that parents are prompt so we will aim to be the same. We do open the doors slightly early on days where the weather is very poor but I can’t do that much earlier as staff have preparation to complete. We will aim to open up around 8.40am just to provide 5 minutes cover from the weather but parents should be conscious that we can’t open before that.

Parking seems to have improved accordingly to local police feedback. Keep an eye on this! The Church Car Park can get very busy/chaotic.

Spellings- could staff explain to children the meaning of each word as they are learning words that they don’t understand a lot of time? Most classes seem to do one list for the whole class- some find them very easy, some very hard? How do we follow up the spellings that children don’t get? Some classes continue to learn them and some move on leaving gaps.

Would the creation of a formal PTA support the school’s budget position? LM happy to explore but do we have the potential support/skills to do so? LM to mention that we’re always open to support/suggestions and for parents to come forward with ideas!

F2- the classroom is much better and the parents like that older siblings go straight through now- this is well organised. The removal of the stay and read initiative is a vast improvement. The only issue is space and time- the children get stuck in the cloak area and the book boxes being there makes it very tight for children. Could we reconsider how this might work or remove the book boxes just for the start and end of the day?

Star of the Day- some parents love it but many comment that it seems to be the same children, often for the same reasons. LM said that Star of the Week and Captain’s Table are tracked for those children who we might miss who are ‘good every day but as easy to spot’ but Star of the Day is a random award as the staff are doing a million other things at the end of the day- may be similar children as different staff choose- PE staff, cover teachers, etc. The other option is to do a ‘what did we learn today?’ round up that shares the learning more and put more of an individual focus on Star of the Week?

**Twitter Polls:**

**Star of the Day opinions**

**Ongoing school meals feedback**

**Fundraising/dress down days (after the Christmas rush)**

**Next general meeting: April 2019**