



**St Michael's CE Junior School
Minutes of Parents' Forum held at 2.30pm
on Thursday 16th January 2020**

Present:	Absent:
Steph Tyler (HT)	Rev. Alwyn Pereira (Governor)
Rev. Alwyn Pereira (Governor)	Ashlie Clift (yr5)
Ruth Baker (yr5)	Lucy Haines (yr6)
Anne Burgato (yrs 4&6)	Laura Moreta (yr5)
Lisa Greenwood (yr5)	
Samantha Hewett (yr5)	
Holly King (yr3)	
Helen Le Page (yr5)	
Rachael Measey (yr3)	
Clarissa Middleton (yr3)	
Melanie Nicholls (yr5)	

		Action
1	Welcome and Introductions:	
2	Apologies for Absence: Laura Moreta	
3	Minutes of previous meeting held on 14 th November 2019 had been circulated. The Parents' Forum agreed the minutes as an accurate record.	
4	<p>Matters arising from the last meeting</p> <p>a) Reminders for children attending music classes; on the whole this is working well, although HLP's son missed his lesson this week and was only collected in time to attend the final 5 minutes. It is hoped that Mrs Jenkins will be able to locate missing children sooner in future.</p> <p>b) Clubs were to be discussed at the recent staff Inset day. The general feeling is that, barring a few glitches, parents are now happy with the way the booking system works and the range of clubs is greater.</p> <p>c) At the last meeting it was reported that some classes were missing ICT lessons for poor behaviour. The parent who raised this issue later spoke to ST to say this had actually been clarified following a discussion with the class teacher, however it was a useful issue to raise. ST hoped to clarify to parents that children were in fact still doing ICT (for example, on laptops in the classroom) even if this did not physically take place in the computer suite. Teachers receive reminders on Google Calendar as to the times blocked out for their year group and class to ensure this is taking place.</p> <p>d) Daily mile seems to be properly up and running now.</p> <p>e) Class teachers were to be asked to give introductory talks at the start of parent outcome sessions. Those parents who had recently attended one of these sessions said that this was now taking place, and appreciated it.</p> <p>f) The possibility of making children's workbooks available for parents to look at during parents' evenings had been raised. This suggestion had been raised with staff, but ST will look at it again closer to the time (next parents' evenings will be in March). ST asked how parents felt about the use of a bell to signal the end of each consultation session at the next parents' evenings. There was a mixed response to this suggestion; it was felt that a quiet bell, that was not too intrusive, might be useful. However, since the last parents' evenings had run so well to time this measure might not prove necessary yet.</p>	ST
5	SEN Nothing was discussed.	
6	Communication Nothing was discussed.	
7	Classroom organisation and structure Nothing was discussed.	



<p>8</p>	<p>Curriculum</p> <p>a) 'My Happy Mind' app; ST wanted to know if parents had any feedback about the use of this program in school, since it is quite expensive so she wants to ensure it is money well-spent. CM commented that she felt it was very important to focus on children's mental well-being, particularly for those children with SEN, for whom there is little extra support from external agencies available. A parent who had seen their child's notebook was impressed with the subjects covered.</p> <p>b) Times tables rockstars: the award of 'most improved' each week seems to be awarded to the same child/children over and over (in Parks class at least) and this does not work as an incentive to the other children in the class. Could there be a way of managing this so the system is a bit fairer so that other children get a look-in? ST explained that this award is worked out based on the number of coins earned one week compared to the number earned the following week. In Parks class, the child who was awarded the certificate last week earned 70,000 coins, whilst the child with the next highest number of coins had 4,000! Parents commented that their children feel in this situation that there is no point in even trying to beat this score, and it is a bit demoralising. ST is to speak to Miss McCabe, the Maths Manager, to ask her to contact the company to see if there is a way to work out the award based on different statistics that might give the other children a chance. Alternatively, staff will look at different ways to motivate the children once they reach a certain stage.</p>	<p>ST</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Fundraising and extracurricular events</p> <p>The Chair of the PTA is stepping down, and it was hoped that lots of parents would attend the PTA AGM scheduled for the next Tuesday at the Garden Gate pub.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Other issues raised</p> <p>a) Toilet breaks; a parent had informed LG that children in Mandela class were not being allowed to visit the toilet during lessons after asking for permission, and had reported that toilets were locked during lunchtimes. ST explained that the toilets are locked from inside the school during lunchtimes when the children are outside (with a named staff member responsible for this task each day), which may explain this particular issue. Children have access to toilets from the playground. ST also commented that if children are asking to use the toilet during lessons then this could be an attempt to avoid some learning tasks. Children are reminded at regular intervals throughout the day to use the toilet, such as at break and lunchtimes, so that interruptions to lessons are minimised.</p> <p>b) A parent asked if anything could be done about the puddle/lake that appears in the playground during heavy rainfall, even though ST said that there is a soakaway. This is an historic problem, but the topic will be brought up again with the Local Authority management team at their meeting in February.</p>	<p>ST</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) A parent asked if children could be given a reminder about not using bikes or scooters in the school grounds. She has recently seen some year 6 boys in particular collecting their bikes from the shed and riding across both playgrounds, down the slopes and across the infant school playground, which could be dangerous with so many little children walking around. ST said this could be done, but it is difficult to control the children's behaviour once they have left their classrooms at the end of the day, as they then become their parents' responsibility.</p> <p>b) SH commented that children are still playing with hard leather footballs in the playground before school, despite being asked not to, and she nearly got hit in the head with one last week. Parents had recently been advised in a letter from ST that they should walk around the edges of the playground to avoid the ongoing football games, which was good advice, so long as soft balls are being used. After general discussion the consensus was that no-one wanted to see football games before school being banned, but since there are no teachers available at that time of day to police things, it is hard to think of a solution to prevent any possible injuries. ST will talk to Matt Sanders about the issue to see if he has any useful suggestions.</p> <p>c) HK asked how the 'star pupil' awards are nominated and assigned each week. ST said this is entirely down to the class teacher's discretion, and she has no say in who it should</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>ST</p>



	be. Some teachers are good at picking up on individual children's particular accomplishments, whilst others focus on general behaviour. ST will send a reminder to teachers to ensure it is not always the same children receiving these awards. However, she also confirmed it should never be simply a tick box exercise, with awards always being given on merit.	ST
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The meeting closed at 3.20pm

Date of next meeting: 5th March 2020

Agenda items to be sent to Melanie Nicholls

Signed.....Date.....

Steph Tyler (Headteacher) – Chair