



## **Parent Council Meeting**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 9.30am (via Zoom)**

**Portland Road Site**

### **Present:**

1. Maddie Southern (MS) – Headteacher
2. Lorna Cummings (LC) – Head of School (Holland Road)
3. Amy Rogers (AR) – Year 5 Parent & PTA
4. Elaine Ainsworth-Jones (EAJ) – Year 3 Parent & PTA
5. Gail Clark (GC) – Year 5 Parent & PTA
6. Anne-Marie Williamson (AMW) – Year 4 Parent & Co-opted Governor

### **1. Apologies**

- No apologies for absence were received

### **2. Welcome & Introductions**

- MS opened the meeting with a warm welcome to parents/carers.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting/matters arising**

- MS suggested that since so much had happened since the last meeting in February with the coronavirus pandemic, it would not be relevant to go through the minutes of the last meeting.

### **4. Continuity planning**

- MS referred to the school's [Remote Learning Policy](#), which is on the school website and was shared with parents/carers in last week's newsletter. MS explained that homework has been re-branded as home learning and that by using Google Classroom or Seesaw for regular home learning, children will gain confidence in online learning. This is important for continuity in the event of class isolations during the coronavirus pandemic.
- MS explained that Year 3 pupils are using Seesaw instead of Google Classroom to help them with their transition from the infants. Year 3 teachers have had additional training to enable them to use Seesaw effectively.

### **5. Home/online learning**

- LC explained that Google Classroom and Seesaw allow children to celebrate their home learning, for example by sharing take-home tasks that would previously have been brought into school and sharing photos or videos of sporting achievements.
- MS explained that as home learning has developed, class slides are now scaffolded down with more modelled examples and also include explicit links to Oak Academy resources and other links to consolidate class-based learning objectives, so that learning at home mirrors learning in the classroom. This means that if a class has to isolate for two weeks, then the lessons that would have taken place in the classroom can be immediately transferred to



Google Classroom or Seesaw. This is currently happening with 6 Blue, and it has been working well with very positive feedback from parents.

- MS said that in the case of a single child having to isolate, it wouldn't be practical for the teacher to offer live learning via Google Classroom in the same way as in a whole class isolation, because the teacher would still be in school teaching the rest of the class. In these cases, a year group letter is sent out to the parent/carer with live links of suitable home learning that the child can complete at home. These links would include Oak National Academy lessons and BBC Bitesize and include topic based work.
- MS said that the school has put together class digital registers to identify families who do not have access to technology/devices other than a smartphone, so that they can be supported and provided with a laptop (on loan) in the event of a class isolation. MS is also ensuring that all teachers have access to appropriate technology at home.
- MS explained that the following is currently taking place in 6 Blue, who are halfway through a two week period of isolation at home:
  - An introductory video from the teacher at the beginning of each week
  - Live daily welcome via Zoom each morning
  - Microsoft Teams sessions for children who have a one-to-one support teacher
  - The class teacher is online for a minimum of 3 hours per day
  - A Pupil Voice Survey will take place when 6 Blue children return to school
- EAJ questioned whether Google Classroom might be better for Year 3 than Seesaw, but LC explained that Seesaw is more appropriate for younger children and reassured her that the Year 3 teachers had received training in Seesaw.
- AMW asked if the current Year 2 children would be using Seesaw next September, but MS said it is too early to say. Seesaw has been used to support the Year 2 transition with online learning.
- MS will speak with Miss Foster to discuss how well Seesaw is working with Year 3.

## **6. PTA Update**

- Christmas card sales have raised £600.
- Current balance is £3500, and AR will speak with the school to see what the money can be used for – possibly something in the summer term.
- MS referred to the Hedge Fund project, which has been very positive. Children have watched an assembly explaining the project and the garden areas next steps.



**7. Issues from parents/carers**

- **Year 3** - no issues to report, and children are happy to be back at school.
- **Lunch** - concerns raised about children not always having enough time to eat all their lunch, due to time spent queuing for handwashing.
- **Break time class bubbles** - some children are missing seeing their friends from other classes at break time. MS explained the importance of keeping children in their class bubbles even outside, to prevent having to isolate a whole year group in the event of a positive case.
- **Stoneham Park** - concerns raised about children mixing across bubbles after school in Stoneham Park, as well as large groups of secondary school children there. MS said that she has sent a letter to all Year 5 and 6 parents/carers asking them to discuss this with their children and make them aware of the importance to keep within their bubbles and maintain social distancing.

**8. AOB/Date of Next Meeting**

- The date of the next meeting will go in next week's newsletter.