



**Parent Council Meeting**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 11am (via Zoom)**  
**Holland Road Site**

**Present:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Maddie Southern (MS) – Headteacher                     | 5. Louise Wilkinson (LW) – Governors co-chair |
| 2. Lorna Cummings (LC) – Head of School<br>(Holland Road) | 6. Nicola Bryson (NB) – Year 4 parent         |
| 3. Sarah Pounds (SP) – Year 5 parent & PTA<br>Treasurer   | 7. Clare Warman (CW) – Year 3 parent          |
| 4. Sarah Brady (SB) – Year 4 parent                       | 8. Year 3 parent (Y3P)                        |

**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**

- 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 at the Portland Road site, and it has been working well with very positive feedback from parents.



- LC pointed out that the Oak Academy videos are particularly useful as parents and children can watch them together, which helps parents to support their child's learning at home. She said that home learning has moved on hugely over the past few months, with the online resources that are now available.
- 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.
- Following a question about the availability of technology and IT equipment at home, MS explained 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
- CW reported that Seesaw is going very well in Year 3, and it is a more positive experience than it was in Year 2 as items are now being filed and moved over to the journal, so it is easier to navigate.
- Y3P said that some more marking and feedback on Seesaw would be helpful.
- CW said that it can be hard to remember when the fortnightly homework is going out, and a ping to parents/carers might be useful to remind parents when homework is being sent out.
- A suggestion was made that a webinar for parents/carers, teaching them how to use Seesaw and Google Classroom, would be helpful.
  - **Action** – MS to discuss with IT technician.



## 6. PTA update

- £600 was raised by the recent 'spooky' Halloween event.
- New fence is being put up around the top part of the playground next week, with more plants and other shielding. Main focus of spending is playground improvements.
- MS referred to the Hedge Fund at Portland Road, which received a large number of donations and has been very successful.
  - **Action** - MS to pass on Deborah's details to SP
- Instead of having a Christmas fair, the PTA are planning the following:
  - Online silent auction
  - Sponsored walk/run 'Leap to Lapland'
  - Usborne Books sponsored reading event, with Usborne Books matching any money raised with book donations for the school
  - Christmas boxes for each class, with items donated by the Co-Op
  - Small Christmas tree for each classroom
  - Reverse advent calendar, collecting items for a local homeless charity

## 7. Issues from parents/carers

- **Daily mile** - LC explained that due to the current need for class bubbles and staggered starts/break times/lunch times, the playground timetable is very full and all outdoor space is being used at all times. The daily mile is still taking place at the beginning of each PE lesson.
- **After school clubs** - LC explained that essential after school childcare provision is available, but clubs are limited due to the current lockdown. MS said that we need to follow Public Health England guidance and ensure we don't compromise our efforts to maintain social distancing and class bubbles by having after school clubs that mix classes and year groups.
- **Collection of children at end of school day** - concern raised about children in Year 3 being collected safely. LC clarified that teachers follow clear dismissal guidance and don't let children go with anyone other than their parents/carers unless it has been pre-arranged.
  - **Action** – MS to follow up today with an observation, and discuss with Year 3 teachers.
- **Reindeer Run donations** - concerns raised by some parents about the name and amount of each donation being visible on JustGiving, and that it would be better if the donation amount could be hidden.
  - **Action** - MS to follow up with PE Co-ordinators.



- **Desk partners** - suggestion that desk partners are mixed more thoroughly, so that children get to sit with a variety of other children.
- On behalf of the Governors, LW expressed thanks to everyone for their input today and a big thank you to the PTA for all their hard work.

**8. AOB/Date of next meeting**

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