



**Parent Council Meeting**  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 9.30am (via Zoom)**  
**Portland Road Site**

**Present:**

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| 1. Niamh O'Shea (NOS) – Deputy Head of School | 3. Gail Clark (GC) – Year 5 Parent & PTA     |
| 2. Amy Rogers (AR) – Year 5 Parent & PTA      | 4. Jo Grim (JG) – Year 6 Parent & PA to Head |

**1. Apologies**

Maddie Southern, Headteacher

**2. Welcome & Introductions**

- NOS opened the meeting with a warm welcome to parents.

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

- NOS referred to the minutes of the last meeting, and said that the items covered in the minutes would be all discussed in today's meeting as they are on the agenda.

**4. Home Learning**

- NOS shared the recent letter sent to parents and carers summarising the very encouraging Home Learning Survey results, including 97% of families seeing an improvement in the online provision since the summer term, and 93% feeling supported by school staff.
- NOS explained that the challenge from 8<sup>th</sup> March onwards, when all children return to school, will be providing home learning during periods of self-isolation for class bubbles.
- NOS said that from 8<sup>th</sup> March, timetables have been adjusted to minimise the movement of staff around the school, so that in the event of a positive Coronavirus case, wherever possible, only a single class will need to isolate for two weeks, rather than an entire year group.
- When children return to school, the Chrome books that are currently on loan to some children at home will be used in school to supplement the facilities offered by the school's ICT suite.
- NOS said that teachers now carry out their lesson planning directly onto Google Slides or similarly compatible software to Seesaw, which helps with the transition between learning in the classroom and learning at home. This will be particularly helpful when there are cases of class isolation required. Lessons learnt during this lockdown period will be taken forward when all children return to school.



## 5. Continuity Planning

- NOS shared the recent letter sent to parents and carers about the return to school for all children on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Staff are looking forward to welcoming all children back to school, and the school will be returning to the same staggered start/finish times for year groups that we had in the autumn term.
- NOS said that we will continue to emphasise the importance of social distancing, and staff will continue with regular Lateral Flow Testing.
- Children who are particularly worried about returning to school will be able to visit school before 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- Lunch will continue to be eaten in classrooms.
- NOS explained that attendance in school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March will be mandatory for all pupils. If any families need to continue shielding, then the school will discuss this with them on an individual basis.
- NOS emphasised that the focus during the return to school is on wellbeing for children.
- AR asked whether there would be class bubbles or year group bubbles, as some children would like to chat to friends in different classes in the playground. NOS confirmed that it would be class bubbles, as before, but that the playground layout would be regularly rotated so that children would have the opportunity to talk to friends across their playground bubbles.

## 6. PTA

- AR reported that the PTA has now got online banking.
- The PTA needs to start finding new volunteers, as many of the current volunteers have children in Year 5 and Year 6, including the Treasurer, so will be moving on soon.
- AR said that it would be helpful to discuss with the school soon what is needed, as the PTA has funds available to spend.
- NOS reported that the school has started summer term planning on the topic of Ancient Greece and the Tokyo Olympics, and will look into planning workshops around this topic.
- GC said that there are ways of safely having outside visitors coming to schools for workshops, as visitors can be tested before entering the school and some workshops can take place outside. Indoor workshops could be presented to one class in the school hall, and the rest of the school can take part via Zoom in their classrooms.
- **NOS will look into the possibility of virtual or outdoor workshop options for the summer term.**



- The PTA paid for a gardener, Ruth, to come into school over Christmas to maintain the new hedge and surrounding plants, which are thriving.

#### 7. Issues from Parents/Carers

- GC asked about the postponed PGL trip for Year 5, and NOS said that the school hasn't had confirmation from PGL yet about this. **School will report back any information from PGL.**
- JG asked whether or not there will be a residential trip for Year 6 this year. NOS said that this is very unlikely, but it is hoped that there may be the possibility of some day trips in the summer term for Year 6. At this point the school cannot say.
- AR said that some correspondence for parents/carers was being sent through Google Classroom, which can be easily missed as many parents/carers don't see all the messages in Google Classroom. **NOS said that she would remind teachers that all correspondence which needs to be seen by parents/carers should be sent via Ping.**
- GC emphasised that feedback from parents/carers has been really positive, and passed on thanks from her child's class to the school for all their hard work during this lockdown. NOS said that the school feels incredibly supported by families, and thanked parents/carers for their continued support.

#### 8. Date of Next Meeting

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am