



MINUTES OF THE LHS Parent Council

Held on Monday 26th February 2018

ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
Present	Present: Sebastian Gray (Assistant Head), Modou Jammeh, Sobia Ramzan, Christine Armstrong, Mihaela Chitic	
Apologies/Absent	Denise Płóciennik (School Administrator), Alison Sherriff (Parent Governor)	
Welcome	SG opened the meeting by welcoming parents. Each parent introduced themselves, shared which year groups their children were in and why they wanted to join the parent council.	
Expectations of the Parent Council	<p>SG shared expectations of the parent council. The parent council is the representative body for all parents of pupils at Laurance Haines School. It is designed to be parent-friendly and it's a great opportunity to become more involved in, and more informed about, the decisions which affect your child's school.</p> <p>Our aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote a partnership between the school/pupils and parents • To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming and inclusive environment • To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils • To identify and represent all parents' views on educational and welfare matters <p>Parents will want to know: Why schools do things a certain way? Why have things been changed?</p>	
School Plan	<p>SG shared the school plan with the parents and explained the new format, which would allow all stakeholders to feel a part of the work towards each school improvement priority.</p> <p>School improvement priorities for 2017-18</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain and ensure at least good progress across the school 2. To make the curriculum fun, engaging and varied so that it contributes to progression and prepares children for their next stage in education and beyond 3. To continue to focus on mental health and wellbeing for all stakeholders, ensuring nurture practice is embedded throughout the school 4. To develop an environment of rich vocabulary, enabling children 	<p>Parents to consider other workshops that the parents could benefit from</p> <p>Suggestion for a Grammar Terminology Workshop – SG to consider</p>

	<p>and staff to communicate effectively and build a passion for language</p> <p>The parents explained that they already had an idea of the priorities (2 and 4) due to messages that had come from the children and through newsletters.</p> <p>Parents questioned whether priority 1 and priority 2 could clash. One parent explained that in Year 6 they had enjoyed a broad curriculum throughout the Autumn term (including the SLIME experience and children being inspired by Blue Planet to study the big blue). However, now the children are closer to the SATS, the priorities have changed.</p> <p>SG explained that this was the picture for Year 6 at this time of year in preparation for the SATS. He added that it was a hope that in the longer term, with children being excited and motivated by the broader experiences and having developed their reading, writing and maths skills in a range of real life experiences, there would be less of a need to prioritise exam preparation.</p> <p>Priority 1 details the option for the school to host Parent Workshops. Some of these workshops have already taken place - Year 2 and Year 6 assessment and Read, Write, Inc. Parents suggested that it would be useful to host a Grammar terminology workshop to cater for the heightened expectations that are placed on children. Parents also suggested that these workshops could be supported by a translator so that a wider reach of parents could access them.</p>	
School curriculum	<p>The parents shared positive feedback around the curriculum developments. One parent explained how the curriculum experiences were capturing imaginations and the children had been talking about them for months instead of just on the day of the experience.</p> <p>SG added that over the Autumn term, with the introduction of the new curriculum, children across the school had made more progress in reading, writing and maths than they had in the Autumn term in 2016/17.</p> <p>Parents shared their delight in the news and suggested that this information is shared with the wider school community.</p>	<p>SG to share positive impact on progress in reading, writing and maths in first term of new curriculum</p>
Y5 and Y6 Residential Trips	<p>SG explained about the recent closure of Cuffley and how the school was seeing this as an opportunity to provide different residential trips for year 5 and year 6. One parent shared their child's positive experiences from recent Year 5 trips to Cuffley. They added that the 'adventure and outdoor' trips provided a huge range of experiences that benefit the children. It was suggested that similar trips were offered in future.</p>	
Feedback from our new parents' evening set up in the main hall	<p>SG asked for some feedback from parents about the recent parents' evenings.</p> <p>Positive feedback was shared by parents about the new setup of the parents' evenings being hosted in the hall, with all teachers and parents together. They said that it felt welcoming and ran smoothly.</p> <p>Parents suggested that it would be helpful to have their own child's</p>	<p>SG to share suggestion for parents to receive a hand-out focused on child's progress</p>

	progress shared with them in a way that could focus the conversation. It was also suggested that the parents were given this information to take home.	
AOB	Need to set the date for next meeting	SG to confirm date for the first half of the Summer term