



## Parent Council Minutes Hamstel Infant School and Nursery

**Meeting Date:** Friday 18th October 2019

**Time:** 09.00am

**Venue:** Hamstel Infant School, Staff Room

### Members of the group:

Name	Class Year group	Present/ Absent
Debbie Morris	Deputy Headteacher/Chair	y
Kerry Andrews	Clerk	y
<i>Faye Roberts</i>	<i>Y1 Heron</i>	<i>y</i>
<i>Nina Duboux</i>	<i>Y1 Dragonfly</i>	<i>y</i>
<i>Hannah Goodliff</i>	<i>Y2 Squirrel</i>	<i>y</i>
<i>Saadia Choudhary</i>	<i>Y2 Otter</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Mathula Aravindan</i>	<i>Y2 Badger /YR Swan</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Kerry Phillips</i>	<i>Y2 Hedgehog</i>	<i>y</i>
<i>Katie McCrae</i>	<i>Y2 Badger</i>	<i>y</i>

Present – Kerry Phillips (Hedgehog); Faye Roberts (Heron); Kate McCrae (Badger) Nina Kirby-Duboux (Dragonfly); Hannah Goodliff (Squirrel) Debbie Morris (Chair) Kerry Andrews (Minutes)

Apologies – Saadia Choudhary (Otter)

Debbie began by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the Academic Year 2019/20 and had a brief discussion as to how well the Parent tours were going for prospective parents, advised that keeping the groups smaller was more manageable and to be able to offer tours during school time was more effective as previous feedback had been received that parents like to see children in a working school environment.

Parent items:

#### 1. Parent email

Discussing how Parent Mail works and what the advantages were. It was raised could it be used by the parent council as a means of communication. Instead the Parent Council meetings, it was confirmed that prior to the meeting everyone would confirmation of attendance via email, and send in any item before the meeting for agenda.

#### 2. School Holiday Dates

Many parents have brought up the school holidays and term time dates, multiple schools are beginning to adopt the approach of having 2 weeks holidays in the October & May half term and parents are wondering if this is something that we would be able to do at Hamstel as it brings the desired ability to be able to afford cheaper holidays. This was discussed at length, what would work to enable this to become a reality, Mrs Andrews (clerk) advised that other schools in a nearby areas have scrapped all inset days and shave time off lunches in order to have the extra school holidays. Mrs Morris confirmed that this would have to be discussed with Lisa Clark and MAT to see whether we would be able to make this work in the future

#### 3. Workshops

Some parents have asked that if in the future we would be able to record any workshops as not all parents are able to attend due to work commitments and they feel that they miss out from not being able to attend – with recording or live streaming. Teachers would need to be consulted and we would also need to look at permissions and data protection to ensure we meet regulations and guidelines for videos and streaming.

#### 4. Class table Arrangements - Books

Ms Goodliff advised and relayed back that there has been a positive response from parents about the names for pupil tables and that children are really enjoying working towards gaining Kite points and becoming the leaders on their class kite mark charts. Another positive has been that good behaviour is also being reflected at home. Children have also been enjoying having the responsibility for changing their own reading books.

#### 5. My Maths

There has been mention that a lot of parents are having trouble loading the My Maths Application on to certain devices and that Flash player isn't compatible as it appears it loads well on Samsung but not Apple. Where successful pupils have been enjoying using the App as mentioned by Mrs Roberts, who said that her son enjoys using this. Mrs Morris advised that at some point in the future it will be looked into about the possibility of other applications – Purple Mash maybe used to set homework. All information about issues and possible other applications shall be reported to Miss Goodman and Mr Sayer to look into.

#### 6. Spelling Passports

Parents have raised the issue that that the spelling Passports are not being stamped, Mrs Morris confirmed that children are responsible for handing in the spelling passports to the teacher themselves in order to gain a stamp. Unfortunately not all classes have a TA present in the afternoon and sometimes if the child has not given in their passport in the morning it possibly has been missed – parents suggested perhaps a note on a future Newsletter to parents could prompt them to remind the children to hand them in on a Friday morning.

#### 7. Diary Dates

There has been some confusion with the diary dates as they seem to be not reflecting what is on the website confusing the parents who are forward planning and are keen to know when the Summer inset days are as this hasn't been advised as yet. This information will be updated shortly.

Positive from this conversation was Parent Mail this year is a big hit with parents and so far has had no problems.

#### 8. Harvest Assembly

It has been discussed amongst parents that they are unhappy that for the Harvest Festival it was only one ticket per child and some clarification was required as to why this decision was reached, Mrs Morris confirmed that due to the amount of children in a year group it wouldn't be practical to have 400+ audience as we do not have the facility to accommodate this and as much as it would be lovely to have both sets of parents to be able to attend, not everyone adopts this request and multiple members of a family have attended and this can be quite daunting and disruptive for the young children who are performing, along with the noise levels. It has been considered to put on more shows thinking about what is fair for the children is also taken into consideration.

9.35am Nina Kirby-Duboux leaves meeting, apologies – for an appointment

#### 9. Parent visits

Parents are extremely happy with the opportunities that they have had so far this term to be able to come into the school to see the progress their children have been making and they enjoy seeing all the children's work on display

#### 10. Outside areas

It has been brought to our attention about the cleanliness and appearance of the areas outside of the classrooms, fox mess is becoming a constant issue and there has been an occasion where a child slipped and fell in some before the school day. Is there any way we can combat this?

This has been discussed with Caretakers to clear and monitor the area.

#### 11. Swimming

Parents would welcome the idea of having regular updates as to how the children are with the swimming and what progress has been made and parents are concerned that children are at different levels and feel that some could be missed out and not swimming at the appropriate swim levels. Mrs Morris confirmed that this was not the case and the lesson did cater to the children's abilities and if a particular child can swim further, they are giving the opportunity to do so, it was mentioned that children's class teachers have an overview from the swim teachers as to how the children are doing and if parents require an update then they can ask the class teacher.

It was also mentioned about the swimming fees and what the fees were used for. Mrs Morris explained that the contribution along with school funds make up the full costs associated with the pool

#### 12. Bikes & Scooters

Quick mention that Bikes & Scooters are still be ridden on the school premises despite it being mentioned in newsletters, Mrs Morris will get the posters completion winner displayed to make everyone aware that this shouldn't be happening.

#### 13. Cross Country

Could we have more advanced warning as to when Cross Country is taking place as advanced notice would be greatly appreciated to be able to get pupils ready, along with this it would be appreciated if any tournaments/competitions are taking place and when – Mrs Morris will speak to Mrs Walker & Mrs Snashall about when event are advertised to parents.

### Deputy Head - School agenda points

#### FIREWORKS

Mrs Morris asked if anyone would be available to volunteer at the firework event, this would involve people manning the refreshment stall & marshals. Tickets will be available to purchase in advance from the school office and they will be available to purchase at the book for & parents evening.

#### PTA

Reformation of the PTA as current members are stepping down and we require new members ASAP. In addition to this conversation Mrs Morris has confirmed that she had received 56 parent names who were interested in becoming part of the Parent Council and this was an unexpected number of responses, but moving forward would aim to have a maximum of 2 representatives per class and perhaps the additional interest may help with Parents that may be interested in being part of a PTA style group. It was discussed that a hand-out or booklet will be made to aim to explain the role of the Parent Council for new comers as we did not receive many names the Reception classes.

A discussion about having a group photo of the Parent Council on the website and way should the Councillor names will be represented for this. The general consensus was that councillors were happy to have a picture but have either first name only or surname only, also mentioned should parent council member have a badge or lanyard so that it makes easy for other parents to spot who they can bring issues to and discuss.

### JOINT Junior and INFANT MEETING

The Headteacher in the Juniors has asked if the Infant Parent council would like to meet at some point with the in the near future and then at specific point throughout the year. This was agreed that going forward we could do as it would be nice to meet/speak with them. Meeting date and time to be confirmed

### Diary Dates for next Infant Parent Council meetings

- 6th December 2019 – 9am
- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 9am
- 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – 9am
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 – 9am
- 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – 9am
- 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – 9am

It was also mentioned that perhaps it would be a lovely idea that towards the end of the academic year there was an assembly to thank all the staff helpers and members of the Parent Council.

**10.10am end of meeting**