

# Parent Council – Consultation Committee

## Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January

### MINUTES

*Max Haimendorf & Beth Humphreys*

**Present:** Max Haimendorf (Chair), Beth Humphreys, Liliana, Jill, Elodie, Hayley, Louise, Josephine, Domenico, Adam, Harry, Vicki, Gabriela, Sharbani, Arwa, Fatma

Apologies: Monna

**Minutes:** Shaheen Riaz

## School requests for feedback and consultation

### Covid Parent Survey outcomes

75 parents responded. Some key headlines were shared in the newsletter Friday.

The following was shared with parents from the recent survey

Where parents aren't confident with the schools covid measures, the key issues are:

- There are a lot of Covid cases
- Hard to control interactions in primary
- There should be an increase in face covering use from parents
- Handwashing is not happening consistently (one parent in year 2)
- There should have been LFD testing in Primary before term started
- Close contacts must be the ones who are in contact still in school class at least say in that specific year group there is a case so parents can let the kids at least take 7 day LFT as this is more preventative than 2 times a week
- Pupils aren't testing enough
- Testing is not standard in Nursery

Some of the feedback was parents didn't feel confident with our measures because of the number of cases. In response to this, Mr Haimendorf explained that this is harder in primary due to higher levels of interactions.

Ms Humphreys responded for primary. There was lots of good feedback, Ms Humphreys acknowledged this. Other feedback was about parents not wearing their face mask properly, this feedback has been very useful. Two parents said they would like to go back to staggered timings. Ms Humphreys explained this would not be possible.

It was agreed that Primary parents would have a resent about the use of face coverings at the school gate.

In primary, parents asked why children were not being tested on site at the beginning of the term. In response, Mr Haimendorf explained that the government did not ask schools to do this. However, we agree we could have done this.

In secondary parents don't feel confident testing is happening. We are doing some testing in school, where there are a lot of cases in the classes there's daily testing.

### **Primary home testing**

Home LFTs have been given to parents when there have been a large number of cases. We don't receive LFTs for primary children, but parents need to proactively get LFTs and do testing at home.

### **Secondary home testing**

A parent said that the school might get push back if we keep increasing daily testing as we are doing more than is happening outside of the school with other organisations.

Mr Haimendorf agreed but at the moment we have passed an outbreak threshold. The additional testing regime is temporary.

## **Digital Strategy and Computing**

Secondary - Mr Haimendorf spoke to the committee. The curriculum has been looked at. Following the lockdown, the need for digital literacy became apparent (knowledge of how to use computers and the learning required to be successful using them). Currently in years 6 and 7 there's a trial of computing lessons. Mr Haimendorf will reflect on how well this went at the end of HT3.

Primary – Ms Humphreys spoke to the committee. There has been lots of positive feedback about children receiving devices, TimesTables rockstars, Mathletics and slightly more feedback on read theory and lots of feedback on typing club. Ms Humphreys is keen to hear from parents' feedback on KS2 online homework. Too much homework at KS4 has been addressed.

In secondary, Mr Holmes is teaching computing one lesson a week for each class. In the other year groups, the school is filling the gaps regarding pupils being more efficient (making bookmarks) and keeping safe online. In addition, pupils will be taught how to use Microsoft applications and how to do coding.

Parent feedback – home and digital strategy. The homework sometimes is a challenge, but others too easy. Could we use technology such as MS Teams for homework?

In response Beth Humphreys said this happens in secondary. In KS2 there are 4 specific programmes used, all of which (apart from typing club) provide homework at the right level for each child. The school will definitely think about using MS Teams for homework next year, but this might be just for year 6 only as we want to keep this super simple.

Mr Haimendorf explained that the devices have been programmed to be used for school purposes only. The devices only work during a set period of time each day.

## **Term Dates**

Mr Haimendorf explained that we will always be in line with Westminster term dates but the school does have some control over the exact term dates and Professional Development dates. In Ark there are 10 PD days for teachers and staff, agreed by the school and the network. Three of those days are decided by the network. Two years ago, Ark split primary and secondary PD days, this won't happen again. Often PD Days end up being on a Friday but in secondary this impacts on some lessons and therefore, some PD days will now be on odd days in the week instead of always on a Friday.

Parents did not have any feedback.

## **Parent Raised Items**

### **Clubs**

Mr Haimendorf explained that we want to ensure clubs are high quality and manageable for staff to run.

Ms Humphreys responded to the parent query received about snacks. We will share fruit in a more organised way, this will be reset today. Club timings cannot be extended, staff contracted hours need to be honoured. The club timings will stay the same and children will be offered fruit. In future, we are hoping to have more on offer, including paid clubs.

A parent spoke about an idea – would it be helpful if parents contribute 50p for the fruit. In response, Ms Humphreys said this would be a nice idea but it will be difficult to implement. However, this will be considered for the summer term. Mr Haimendorf and Ms Humphreys will speak about this.

A parent asked for clarity re what children can wear all day if they have a club after school. Ms Humphreys will clarify this with parents.

### **Vaccinations**

A parent asked a question – does the school know the percentage of pupils who took up vaccination?

Mr Haimendorf responded. Getting vaccinated in school is in one place a child can get vaccinated, children can get vaccinated other places, but we might not have been notified. Last year 120 children were vaccinated on site.

Second vaccination day is scheduled on Monday 31st January.

A question to the permission form has now been added to ask if their child is already vaccinated.

## **AOB**

### **Home Learning Workshops HT3**

Ms Humphreys responded. This half term we cannot do these, reasons why will be in the weekly newsletter. We are hoping to run these in person HT4.