

Wednesday 13th January 2020
Parent Council Consultation Meeting
MINUTES

Chair: Max Haimendorf (Principal)

Minutes: Shaheen Riaz

Present: Louise, Gabriela, Fatma, Liliana, Hayley, Josephine, Arwa, Cheryl Francis

1	<p>School Leadership Items for Feedback</p> <p><u>Community Classroom provision</u></p> <p>What's it like? Any feedback on the provision in Primary or Secondary (timings, arrival and dismissal) Who is there? Which pupils are we missing (is there anyone who should be in school who isn't - why?) We intend to stop allowing new pupils (except by exception) in future weeks</p> <p>A parent reported that she feels very comfortable taking her child to nursery as she feels the school is doing everything to keep the children safe. In regard to community classroom, would the school take in consideration to expanding CC for kids who are not vulnerable and cannot get enough support at home?</p> <p>In response to this, the Principal said the school needs to be clear about what staff should be focussing on but, because the Government has said everyone should stay at home then pupils should be learning at home unless they are unable to. If there were many more pupils onsite it would also be unfair for pupils who are learning at home. Due to safety reasons we need to stick with a restricted number of children on site. The community classrooms on site is a safe place for children to learn and whilst it is a bit different to what children are learning at home, it is also similar – pupils complete the same curriculum /learning.</p> <p>In secondary, CC are year group by year group. In primary, the decision has been that there is a bit of mixing in year groups (fixed bubbles). The groups have been carefully chosen to make the environment inclusive, supportive and moving forward flexible as well.</p> <p><u>Remote Learning provision</u></p> <p><u>Primary - How are tutorials going? How are home learning packs going? What's working? How could they be improved? Provision of laptops – how could this help?</u></p> <p>In primary there are online tutorials and home learning work.</p> <p>A parent reported that the tutorials are good, her child looks forward to these however, for full time working parents it is hard to manage how much the children watch the YouTube videos. Otherwise, a live music tutorial once a week would be good as children were excited to learn how to use an instrument and they were getting excited about that. Parent is happy with the small group for Maths and English.</p> <p>A parent agreed that smaller groups are good but would also like a live music and art tutorial once a week as well as a weekly assembly, so the children can see their teacher.</p> <p>The Principal said that the assembly would be really helpful from a wellbeing perspective.</p>
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In response to the feedback, Ms Deeks informed the committee that this will be discussed in year lead and SLT meetings today. Ms Deeks does feel the small groups are working well but we would like larger groups to meet, which was inspired by the home learning workshop parental feedback. The most common feedback was that children are missing seeing their teachers and friends. The scheduling of any additional sessions however will be extremely difficult because all the teacher time available is allocated to everything that is already scheduled in school. The next home learning packs have music and art activities. Primary laptop rollout has started, an email has been sent with the collection time for Year 6 collections today and tomorrow and a further email will be sent today or tomorrow for Year 5 devices to be distributed on Monday.

The Principal responded for secondary. In **secondary** (true for primary and secondary), the Government gave short notice to put into place the plans we already have and respond to things. The school will adapt as the weeks go on. Asynchronous learning (*Asynchronous= teaching remotely by video as we did in lockdown. Video of approx 10 mins input. Followed by 2.5 hours of independent work*) as well as check in phonecalls.

Monday 18th January onwards the school will be moving to live online remote learning. There are Parent Information Events scheduled for each year group to inform parents what to expect for the weeks ahead.

A parent responded to say everything in secondary is good so far, the laptops help. The only issue is that there are some issues with tutorial links – the Principal please email the Head of Year if you need technical support.

Lateral Flow testing of secondary pupils and all Staff

Lateral Flow Tests give immediate responses within 30 minutes, they do not give the same level accuracy as a PCR (lab based test), but they do pick up most cases when people are asymptomatic. We were quite nervous as we had lots and lots of negative tests, but we did pick up one member of staff, who went and got a PCR thereafter. They are now isolating for the required period of time.

Secondary pupils have responded well and maturely, staff have responded positively to this also. Prior to testing, we asked parents for their consent for their child(ren) to be tested, there were a small number of parents who said they did not want their child to be tested. SLT spoke to these parents, as although we do respect their decision but we felt it would be good to speak to parents so they understood what the LFTs are, and the benefits of their child getting tested. Secondary pupils and all staff on site have weekly tests.

A question was asked about year 5 and 6 pupils getting tested. In response to this, The Principal said he agrees this is something we need to review and think about, as these year groups are in the same building as secondary but at the moment the government guidance is secondary only.

Parents responded to say children getting tested is a good thing and it puts parents minds at ease.

KEY ACTIONS

School to consider increasing the number of touch points in the week in Primary.

School to make sure Secondary Head of Year emails are clearly made available to parents to use

2	Parent Raised Items
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Specific needs during remote learning

What support is given to SEN pupils?

Ms Deeks responded for primary. CC runs for critical key workers and vulnerable pupils; this includes children with EHCP or currently being supported by services in Westminster (which has widened). The school has a lot more children on site with needs and we have more pupils on site now than we did over summer - these children are getting more support on site. The children offsite have the option to use a different home learning work pack (year group), working well below in phonics tutorials (20 minutes) or have been identified for reading sessions (15 minutes) and remote Speech & Language Therapy).

The Principal responded for **secondary**. These children are coming to school, those who are not coming we are encouraging them to come to school. Secondary are using techniques to help children know what to do and any spoken instruction are being written/typed with visuals. Also planning to set up interventions after school from next week for specific pupils

What support for EAL parents?

Ms Deeks responded for **primary**. Now we are in week 2 we can see families who have well established routines and are responding well to work and check in calls. We are now at the stage where we can see the pupils who need additional support, these parents get several check-in calls each day, and have bespoke timetables as well as home visits. It is a difficult thing to do, as we ask for parents' permission to visit (this happens outside, socially distanced). We prioritise the support for these families, to get into good routines.

The Principal responded for **secondary**. Secondary are doing extra phone calls and emails to pupils and parents (pastoral and related to learning) to check in and help them to get them set up.

Are there many children left without devices and Internet?

Ms Deeks responded for **primary**. DfE said children in years 3, 4, 5, 6 are eligible for a device depending on the criteria. The children who are not given a device is because they have their own device. There is no provision for years 2 below and some parents do not have children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Laptops will be given on a need basis, if a parent does not have a device (just a mobile phone) then this parent will get a device for their child to work on. We have devices which were donated to us also. Laptops are for parents and pupils to access online tutorials, not to do the work on paper. We are looking at platforms and holding live learning on a platform but the biggest challenge is to get parents to access this safely as instead of sending in the work packs, the parents will be able accessing an online learning portal.

The Principal responded for **secondary**. This should be resolved; the next matter is checking internet bandwidths. Families need to have the bandwidth to sustain the online tutorials. It is important that parents have the internet capacity at home. The government has said if there is a problem with this, the best way for them to address this is to increase mobile data and the government will support this. Parents are to speak to the Head of Year if the internet is a problem.

Events (including winter concert) - plans

The Principal spoke to the committee. We were very excited for the upcoming winter concert but realistically we don't have the capacity to produce something of high quality. Will make this happen when pupils are back in school. Need to think about community events which build a sense of togetherness during this period. This would be picked up by the Events and Fundraising part of the Parent Council.

- **Assemblies**
Ms Deeks informed the committee that year group assemblies are being discussed. The decision is whether this will be a year group or class assembly. Suspect in the first instance the teacher will want to meet their class.
- A showcase of KSA over the years, to see how the children have progressed
“celebrating togetherness”
- Reading group (book club) where everyone can talk about books aloud
Ms Deeks really likes the idea of live Storytime; we can definitely build this into a session
- A wellbeing session (whole school pastoral check in), where the teacher asks the pupil how they are. Children to talk amongst themselves, they miss this.
Ms Deeks said this will be discussed later this afternoon with year leads and SLT.

Year 11 and 13 grades

How can marks be given for GCSEs fairly when the children have not had a lot of time in school to put in enough effort, or be able to help themselves lift their grades higher? Home school is simply not the same as being in school.

The Principal informed the committee that there will be some announcements about this later today. The Principal led the Yr11 and Yr13 Parent Information Event last night. The email will link up the information from last night and today, this will be emailed to parents later.

Key Actions:

Parent Council – Events and Fundraising Committee meeting Events meeting to meet and create togetherness events whilst we are remote

Ensure the link the Year 11 and Year 13 information is made available to all year 11 and 13 parents

AOB

xpressions app

The Principal apologised to parents who felt like the school has paused on this. Ark are now committing to supporting the Bromcom module which is called *My Child at School*. Parents would download an app, the app would allow the parent to see all the messages and the progress their child is making in school, parents can get behaviour and event notifications. Not at the roll out stage of this but this is the direction the school are now heading in.

Future meeting times

As the weeks go on, there is a feedback if parent council can happen a different day so virtual coffee morning can still go ahead. Parents are ok with this if the dates are sent in advance so they can plan ahead.

Key Actions: Email parents about future dates for Parent Council: Consultation Committee