



Oxgangs Primary School – Parent Community Council Minutes

9th November 2021

Present: Aristides Kiprakis – Chair (AK), Kathryn Wright – Head Teacher (KW), Louise Mercer (LM) – Teacher Rep, Lesley Roarty (LR), Kaythie Reid (KR), Carlos [], Ben Bunting (BB), Helen Panter, Barbara Findlay, Gordon Robertson, Calley Thomson, Laura McGurk

Apologies: None

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

2. Approval of previous minutes

Previous minutes were approved.

Actions from previous meeting (i) AMEY building check- KW as forwarded this to AK, (ii) P7 leavers action on Louise McLennan completed

3. Updates

(i) Headteacher Report:

- 15-19th November is anti-bullying week. This is very important to the school and they will be making much of this and not just for this one week, rather this is being used as a launch pad for a longer term plan and an opportunity to review and re-launch the current anti-bullying policy. Staff have undertaken 'Respect Me' anti-bullying training. KW also noting the "One Kind Word" message which they intend to promote over the coming week.

The school is keen to ingather parents' views on anti-bullying by way of a questionnaire and by way of several teams meetings for the sharing of views. Some home learning will also be sent home to support this. LM requesting the support of the parent council in promoting the teams drop in sessions, when arranged.

KW is keen for parents to get involved. AK suggesting a parent council representative be present on each teams call, currently suggested as being just $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. AK agreeing to try to facilitate a parent council member being on each call.

- Regarding Christmas, KW noting that while things have moved on significantly since last year in many ways many restrictions on school activities remain in place. There is a head teachers' update tomorrow but the Council have indicated that there will still be no parents permitted in the school for any kind of performance or show. Some sort of socially distanced performance in the playground might have been possible but given the time of the year and likelihood of bad weather this did not seem feasible.

P1/2 will film a nativity story separately and that will be shared with parents. The rest of the school will put something together that is a celebration of Christmas, details to follow.

KW/LM are keen to find a way for families to celebrate Christmas outside of the school, either as a fundraiser or not. LM suggesting some sort of trail of shops and key points in the community with a prize at the end. KW looking for ideas and someone to take this forward. Other suggestions were some sort of scavenger hunt, a trail using what3words, a list of places to take selfies or similar. KW will put something in the Friday update about this.

- Turning to homework, there was a question from a p3/p4 parent re teams access and the appropriateness of the homework.

KW noting that technology was going to be a big part of school life going forward and that all councils are investing huge amounts in providing p6/p7 pupils with individual ipads. This will inevitably change the way the school and learning approaches technology.

As regards the appropriateness of the homework set, KW noting that homework is very divisive and that it can be tricky to get the balance right here. She wanted a soft start to homework and to avoid this being a source of stress for any family. So homework will be provided but not compulsory- that position will be reviewed after a period. As to whether it will be marked, this may not be the best use of teacher's time. Generalised feedback may be given to the whole class, if appropriate, rather than the teacher marking every single piece of work submitted. KR saying it might be helpful for clarification to be provided to parents as the position as set out by KW does not seem to be widely known.

- KW requesting that children provide indoor gym shoes for designated PE days in order to help protect the gym floor. Now that they are able to do some gym indoors the gym floor is getting filthy and the various markings are starting to wear away.
- Children in need will be marked on 19th Nov. Rather than donations KW was keen to do a food bank donation this year- this was well supported by those on the call.

4. Questions/Other issues

AK had questions re Christmas and re homework, both of which had been answered by KW in her update. Otherwise the only issue was (still) the request for parents to be involved in the parent council and the PTA/ KW suggesting that the parent council could make a short promo video setting out what the roles were. This being discussed and also the possibility of whether the P7s might be able to assist. Suitable P7s to be put in touch with AK re this.

5. AOB

The Parent Council noting its thanks to Barbara Findlay for her sole efforts in organising the fundraising Christmas cards on behalf of the PTA.

6. Next Meeting:

8th February, details to be circulated nearer the time.