

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON**  
**Thursday 28th September 2017 2pm**

**PRESENT**

Dr Beth Clarke                      Sian Siekierski                      Rachael Higgins  
Lisa Buxton                              Lisa Breeze

**APOLOGIES**

Hayley Beard                              Tracey Morris                              Ian Binns  
Ian Binns                                      Nicola Johnston

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Parent Council Recruitment</b> We need Parent Council representatives for Year 4 and Year 6! Dr Clarke is going to request this. Parents from all other year groups are also welcome to attend Parent Council.</p> <p><b>Transition between year groups</b> Dr Clarke requested feedback from the Parent Council about how the transition has been between year groups. Two parents of Year 3 children commented that they felt the transition from Year 2 into Year 3 has been very successful; children enjoy feeling more grown up - the extra independence of going into the playground on their own and having their own lockers. One parent commented that she has witnessed some anxiety from children going into the KS2 playground on their own and a good way to manage this would be to agree to meet with a friend outside the gates so they can go into the playground together.</p> <p>A member of Parent Council (on behalf of other parents too) has found that children have really missed Toy Friday (in the transition from Reception to Year 1). Parent Council agreed that teachers need to tell Reception children at the end of the summer term that there will be no Toy Friday in Year 1. This is also to be included in the Reception to Year 1 transition booklet. Dr Clarke is going to follow this up.</p> <p>A member of Parent Council fed back that the quantity of homework has seemed much higher for Year 1 compared with Reception. Dr Clarke said that this shouldn't be case as all years are set the following homework: <b>Mondays:</b> Spellings - due in before the following Monday</p>	<p>BC</p> <p>BC</p>

Reading - children should have completed one lesson of Reading Eggs by the following Monday and should also be reading with their parents every night (minimum of 10 minutes)

**Wednesday:**

Mathletics - all children should complete the set lessons by the following week

**Friday:**

Project homework to be completed by the following Friday.

**Matters relating to correspondence:**

Year 1 and 2 afternoon break

A number of parents have contacted the Parent Council expressing their concern that afternoon break appears to have been cut for Years 1 and 2. The concern was for a number of reasons including the need for children to move around, take fresh air and eat snacks and drinks at break time.

Dr Clarke explained that, previously, children came in from lunch at 1.05 and had break between 2.50 until 3pm, when assembly started. It was taking children from 2.30 until 2.50 **to tidy their activities away and pack up their bags** and assemblies were running over. Children were often taking a long time to settle following the afternoon break and the overall result was that the afternoon was rushed, learning time was being squashed and children were being disrupted when they were engrossed in their work.

Dr Clarke explained that she has agreed with teachers in all years of KS1 that breaks should take place at their discretion, so that learning isn't disrupted and children (as an entire class) can be taken out when they need it.

A Parent Council member expressed her concerns (on behalf of other parents too) that children aren't hydrated because they normally drink at afternoon break and aren't drinking in class time (even though Hill West policy is that children can drink at any time). There was much discussion around this topic so it was suggested that the Parent Council put together a pupil questionnaire to ask children about their drinking habits at school, to help them understand that they can drink at any time.

Dr Clarke is going to write a letter to KS1 parents explaining the changes to afternoon break.

Tuck

A parent has complained about the changes to tuck - that there is now only toast and juice available and that money can't be used, you can only pay online. Dr Clarke explained that the changes are because tuck is operated by the same people as the school dinner provider and at present this can't be changed.

SS/RH

BC

### Bare feet in PE

A Parent Council member expressed concern about children doing PE in bare feet in the hall, due to outdoor shoes being worn on the floor and hazards like staples. Dr Clarke explained that the floor is buffed twice a week and the caretaker is responsible for keeping the school clean. For some activities e.g. gymnastics bare feet is a necessity.

### KS2 at home time

A Parent Council member raised (again) the issue of congestion outside KS2 at home time: there are Arthur Terry children coming into school on bikes and scooters; parents are blocking the path outside Year 3 and 4 classrooms and cars are coming and going. The Parent Council suggested banning traffic in and out of school between 3.15 and 3.45. Dr Clarke is going to look into this and also at easing congestion by potentially separating out home times for the different year groups. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

BC

### Stamps/smileys for Reception at lunchtime

A Parent Council member asked if we can bring back stamps/smiley faces on the Reception children's hands if it's not happening already? Dr Clarke felt that this was still happening but a Parent Council member is going to check with Mrs White.

RH

### **AOB:**

### After school clubs

We discussed the poor take-up of some of the after school clubs, e.g. the Aspire Alternative Sports for KS2. A Parent Council member asked if there could be better promotion of the clubs next term.

### **Date of next meetings:**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July

### **Agenda items for next meeting(s)**

Actions points from previous meeting  
Matters relating to correspondence

AOB

*If you have any views on any of the above you are more than welcome to come along to our next meeting. If you are unable to attend, please email views to [parentcouncil@hillwest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@hillwest.bham.sch.uk) and these will be included in the meeting*

## Parent Council Members

Reception

Robins - Rachael Higgins (Erin)

Wrens - Sian Siekierski (Lyra)

Year 1

Swifts - Lisa Breeze (Daniel)

Swallows -

Year 2

Owls - Lisa Buxton (Jack)

Kingfishers -

Year 3

Hedgehogs - Rachael Higgins (Nathan)

Rabbits - Sian Siekierski (Kasper)

Year 4

PARENT REPRESENTATION NEEDED!

Year 5

Hares - Lisa Buxton (James)

Year 6

PARENT REPRESENTATION NEEDED!

Above are the current parent representatives for each class, but it doesn't matter if your child's class already has someone, the more the merrier!