

Minutes of Parent council meeting #3. Thursday 11th February 2016.

2 Parents present.

Thanks to the parents who came along to the 3rd parent council meeting just before the half term. Items submitted to the agenda in advance were discussed and the meeting finished promptly at 4:15. Why not come along next time and add your own views? It's a short meeting where you are welcome to bring your own agenda items; the only rule is that they must be submitted in advance of the meeting itself.

Discussion ranged over several topics and the following outcomes were noted:

- ❖ That Year 6 have benefitted from a new homework book for grammar and punctuation. The discussion moved on to looking at rolling this homework method out across the rest of Key Stage 2 and potentially Year 2 as well. Mr. Howard is currently corresponding with the publishers and hopes to have some sample copies for parents to view. Homework will be an agenda point for the next meeting of the Parent Council.
- ❖ The library renovations have been completed and the children in Foundation have been enrolled as a year group at Oakdale Library. We are in the process of interviewing a prospective volunteer librarian but we could always use more parents in this capacity. Why not volunteer to help? This would allow us to fully use the library for the benefit of the children.
- ❖ A "sensory" room was also added to the agenda by a parent and this was discussed. The outcome of this has been the identification of a potential room and the exploration of ways in which it could be made suitable for pupils at St. Mary's. This is a real example of parents working with the school in order to form an effective partnership. More updates on this at the next meeting of the parent council.
- ❖ The issue of "wraparound care" came up for discussion. Parents agreed that the Breakfast Club was helpful for working families trying to get to their places of employment and asked whether this provision could be extended to include after school as well. This suggestion was taken to the senior leadership team and will be discussed at their next meeting; another clear example of effective partnership working between home and school.
- ❖ Later appointments for working parents who struggle to get time off from work was a further point. Staff at St. Mary's all work well above and beyond their statutory hours and so it is difficult to find further appointment times late in the evening. However, staff are always willing to make individual appointments on a different day; please book these through the office.
- ❖ A suggestion was made that children be offered a quiet and calm place to go at lunchtimes. As a result of this, two members of staff have volunteered to give up their lunchtimes on a Tuesday and Thursday so that children can use the ICT suite as a place of calm away from the playground.
- ❖ There are, of course, still areas where the school and parents can work together more effectively. We intend to look at homework (as already mentioned) as well as making the home school diary work better in its intended purpose of supporting communication between home and school.

We can only work together on these issues if we work in partnership. Please consider attending the next meeting of the parent council which will be from 3:30 to 4:15 on Tuesday 22nd of March 2016. Items for the agenda must be submitted in a written document (email or paper) by 3:15 on Friday the 18th of March 2016.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr. R. Howard, Acting Assistant Head.