

Parents' Forum Minutes held at Grove Park Primary School – 2nd of December 2016

Head teacher - Darren Jones (DJ) and Vicky Rodriguez (VR) represented the school leadership team. Maryam Shahmanesh (MS) (twins in year 2 and school leaver in year 7) chaired the meeting and Abigail Klapp (children in year 2 and 4) took minutes. Parents and Carers, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Class Reps and Parent Governors were present.

FYI: An agenda is compiled by MS from questions raised by parents, career and class reps in advance of the meeting. Points from the agenda are summarized as heading in these minutes. All past agendas are available from the school or m.shahmanesh@ucl.ac.uk.

Actions from previous meeting held on the 26th of October 2016

- Teachers are in principal happy to use sign up genius for volunteering list. (Can someone confirm whether the class reps should deal directly with the teachers to implement this?)
- PE - to be addressed at today's meeting.
- PTA are going to organise a coffee morning to canvass ideas on what workshops to run with the school nurse.
- Lunchtime equipment is now in full use and playtime schedule is up and the toys are rotated daily.
- Suggestion Box will be available post Christmas.
- School dinners tasting week commences 16th Jan - Vicky needs 5 volunteers to cover the 5 lunchtimes. The first 5 people to email me with their availability will be picked. Please contact Abigailklapp@gmail.com Please only volunteer if you have DBS, or contact the office for a police 99 check.
- DBS is only a requirement if you think you will be helping at school on a regular basis. If you wish to help with a one off trip please apply for a Police 99 at the office.

Ayesha - School nurse

- Throughout the year she will be talking to the children on a variety of topics including teeth cleaning and the importance of 5 a day. If you have any further topics you would like covered please contact Ayesha directly as she is keen to have your input.
- To clarify, vision and audiology is not covered by the school nurse. If you require, specialists can be contacted and invited into school regarding asthma.
- The relationship between the parent/child and our school nurse is confidential.

Parent Support Advisor (Jo Lovett)

- Jo Lovett is working with Gill Hinds to run various parent workshops to deal with issues that arise within the family. Each half term Gill is going to run a 1 hour clinic for small groups of 6. The places will be offered on a first come first served basis. If the workshop is oversubscribed your name and number will be taken and Jo will contact you directly to offer support.
- The session will be confidential and as such anyone attending will be asked maintain this confidentiality. Gill hopes given the small size of the group people will be more willing to open up and talk. The sessions will be held during the week between 9-10am

Workshops

Are there any further plans to roll out workshops to parents?

Yes indeed but the school would like your input regarding what it is you want to know more about.

- **Action 1:** Class reps to write to their classes asking for ideas of topics that parents would like covered. Ideas from the meeting included "How the school teaches languages" and "How to be an effective parent reader: - how to use the record book and get the best use of your time in class."

Foreign Languages,

Can Mr Jones outline the thinking behind the policy of teaching multiple languages?

As a linguistic Mr Jones is keen that the children are exposed to a range of languages to help enhance their daily learning and inspire them to continue languages into year 7. French is the core language of the school and year 3 and 4 also learn Latin. The children have between 45 -60 minutes of language tuition per week, from reception and upwards. (It is not obligatory at all levels.) Latin is taught using Minimus - for further information please refer to minimus-etc.co.uk

The school appreciates that parents would love more time spent learning languages but unfortunately the timetable is so stretched that time precludes them from doing so. However it was noted that there should probably be an after school club offering French, to help support in school learning and that there other ways introducing languages into the school day, such as during register, or at the beginning/end of the day, meeting and greeting etc.

- **Action 2-** School to ask Aktiva about offering a French class after school club

Speech and language Issues.

How are speech and language issues handled by the school, is there any intervention or external speech therapy offered?

- Please refer to the website for guidance:
- Talk to your child's teacher who will offer support strategies and the school can refer you for assessment of speech problems – however there is a long waiting list for speech therapy and so some people opt for private therapy following the assessment.
- Deputy Head Rachel Davies is our Senco and will work with you to help make appropriate provision.
- The school will offer intervention for children with English as a second language and will tailor a programme to meet the individual needs of the child. They will fully immerse them in the lexicon & the syntax of language that will encourage speech and language development. Talk to your child's teacher for the details of the strategy.

Choir

Any Plans to reinstate the choir?

- When Miss Glaze returns from maternity leave in the summer it is hoped that she will take on the mantle of the choir.
- The school website will shortly include the "Music Map" which will highlight to parents how music is taught in school. David Nind our current music teacher works with 2 days a week and supports all school productions. He works for the school through "Sing Academy"

Concerts and timing

Any plan to reinstate evening concerts?

- It was decided this year to move the concert outside, as unfortunately the hall cannot accommodate all of the parents in the upper school.
- The timing is down to the fact that Mr Jones is concerned about the well-being of his team, he wanted the opportunity to release some time back to them as they have worked tirelessly this term. This will be reviewed next year.

Action 3: School to give parents sufficient notice on the website to arrange time off if necessary

Concerts, iPhones and behaviour

Any plans to curb the use of iPads and iPhone filming during concerts?

Parents to take responsibility for their own actions and be more respectful of each other, and of the time and effort that goes into making a success of these productions, by the staff and children!

Action 4: School to look into the cost of buying the licence to film productions, this will require payment from parents.

PE Reception

What is the time frame for introducing PE in reception?

Miss Lewis has produced a handout for the parents that explains how the school integrates PE into every aspect of the curriculum as has been the case at GP for the last 4 years in line with the EYFS requirements and not as a discreet subject per se. The children are moving around the whole day - outdoor play is encouraged but even in the classroom children are physically playing, constructing, handling and moving. Carpet time in reception is minimal. This is considered good practice in the Early Years. It was noted that confusion had arisen this year over PE sessions in Reception due to PE kits being included on the list of items for new parents to purchase. This is not the case and PE kits will be needed for the beginning of Year 1.

Actions 5: Circulate the handout to ensure parent's realise that the school do everything we can to inspire and engage the children in all aspects of learning and show the considerable thought that is given to how we teach PE and we are proud of our sports education throughout the school.

Action 6: The school to remove the PE kit requirement from the website for reception pupils. As well as ensure that during healthy schools week the expectation is that reception pupils wear sport kits but necessarily school colours.

Action 7: To have a parents workshop session on how PE is taught in Grove Park.

Additional Donations

Parentmail appears to have no facility to take additional donations - can this be rectified

Actions 8: Vicky to look into

Aktiva

Concerns about the quality of the service, cost and communication

- This is on the Governors radar as part of the schools' development plan. Vicky has met and expressed her concerns, and explained that communication appears to be a problem. Any further problems with Aktiva please contact Vicky on info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk
- Currently Aktiva has exclusive use of the school facilities, this is being reviewed. They have been put on notice and the offering for next term has expanded, possibly as a consequence. We expect to see improvement.

Actions 9: Vicky to do a cost comparison with other local schools

Thank You

A HUGE THANKYOU to the PTA and all the parents involved in making the Christmas school fair such a great success!

Next Forum Friday the 10th of February 2017, 9.30 -10.30 am

Please send queries and topics for the agenda to the current forum chair m.shahmanesh@ucl.ac.uk or text her on 07776185572 or find her in Friday assembly by the 29th of November.

Alternatively let your class rep know to pass on the topic.