



October 2020



	Name	Email	Child's Year
Present	Fran Wyborn	franwyborn@hotmail.com	Rec
Present	Emma Salisbury	Emma.salisbury@outlook.com	Rec
Present	Mike Jenkins	Mike@insightlight.co.uk	Yr 1
Present	Sarah Le-Grys	Sarah_equitrader@yahoo.co.uk	Yr 1
Present	Jade Wells	jadeywells@gmail.com	Yr 2
Present	Eleesa Weaver	Eleesa22@yahoo.co.uk	Yr 4
Present	Rachael Dishley	rfcrabtree@hotmail.com	Yr 4
Present	Beccy Ball	beccyball@googlemail.com	Yr 5
Present	Cherry Riddlesdin (Chair)	Cherry.riddlesdin@poolealcock.co.uk	Yr 6
Present	Richard Holland	Richardholland770@btinternet.com	Yr 6
Present	Jane Horton	jehorton@sky.com	Academy
Present	Rachael McKinlay	head@acton.cheshire.sch.uk	Head of School
Present	Vicky McGowan	Vmcgowan.1986@gmail.com	FOAS
Not present	Nigel Darlington	nigeldarlington@hotmail.co.uk	Yr 2
Not present	Philip Sutton	Philipalfie82@hotmail.co.uk	Yr 3
Not present	Laura Western	Laurawestern81@hotmail.co.uk	Yr 3
Not present	Yr 5 Rep-TBC	n/a	Yr 5

Discussion & Action Points:	Whom/When
General Housekeeping	
Confirmed all email contact details for Year Representatives were correct, and that the school website will be updated.	CR
<p>Confirmed that the purpose of the Parent Council is to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide an opportunity for open discussion and communication between the Senior Leaders at Acton and the Academy Board, and a representation of parents, its remit is to discuss future ideas, evaluate current practices and systems, and to listen to ideas that parents have to offer <p>However, the school must give consideration to its legal, professional, and safeguarding obligations, as well as the needs of all children and teachers when making any decision. Parents are asked to be mindful of this.</p> <p>Issues relating to individual children are best dealt with directly between the parents of the child and the class teacher or head teacher, and Parent Representatives must feel comfortable to direct parents through the appropriate channels if necessary.</p>	
Noted that we have a vacancy for a Year 5 representative, and asked if anyone knew a Year 5 parent that might like to join. Mrs McK will send a letter home to Year 5 parents asking for a volunteer.	RMcK

<p>Covid Related subjects</p>	
<p>Parents wanted to say a massive thank you to the staff for getting children back in and settled in such difficult times and with so many restrictions. They do a fantastic job and have been so supportive.</p> <p>Drop off and pick up has been great, one way system and staggered times works really well. It's really helpful having staff to greet and support children as required. It is lovely to have positive and welcoming staff to meet them.</p>	
<p><i>Concern was raised over the issue of children waiting in the rain for siblings at the end of school:</i></p> <p>RMcK said that unfortunately, because of the rules, the school doesn't have enough staff to take children back inside whilst keeping the bubbles separate. However, she will monitor the situation and where possible will use the corridor and gazebo if necessary in bad weather – but she always has to make sure the bubbles stay separate.</p> <p>Suggestion that it could be reiterated in the newsletter that children need to be sent in with suitable wet weather clothing – even if it's dry in the morning when they come to school.</p>	<p>RMcK</p>
<p><i>Query was raised over how the school was going to do the 'new normal' re parents evenings, exams, celebration assemblies, etc. And what possibilities there would be for additional informal contact with class teachers.</i></p> <p>RMcK said that there would be three nights of parents evenings to be carried out virtually, and a letter would be going out to parents the next day. They will be 10 minute virtual meetings, one to one with parents. If parents cannot or don't want to do online meetings, they can have a phone call instead.</p> <p>Exams: RMcK is waiting for guidance – the unions are opposed to exams being carried out this year because of the schooling that was missed last year. The government do want exams, so the school is waiting for instruction from the Dept for Education.</p> <p>Assemblies and collective worship: will be done virtually with the classes. Harvest assembly is coming up and they will be videoing some of the children doing readings etc. Parents wanting to view will be asked to sign a code of conduct to allow the school to open up the assembly to parents. Main concern is the safeguarding of the children whilst online. RMcK said that reception class had had a virtual new starter assembly – the video is on the website.</p> <p>Informal meetings with teachers: as ever a parent can request an informal meeting – call or email the school, or put a note in the communication diary. They are happy to do this by phone, Google Meet, or socially distanced in the gazebo – however the parent would like to do it.</p>	

<p><i>Parents wanted assurance over the safety measures that are in place – what steps are being taken to protect children and teachers?</i></p> <p>RMcK pointed to the Covid tab on the school website ('Reopening School'), which contains all risk assessments, policies and procedures.</p> <p>The school has to follow DfE guidelines – currently this is not to wear facemasks in class, other than when attending to eg, first aid requirements.</p>	
<p><i>Parents wanted an update on homeschooling plans, for when anyone has to self-isolate or if lockdown happens again</i></p> <p>The school has now introduced Google Classrooms. All staff have had (and are having ongoing) training, and the children are learning to use it in class as well. It is basically an online classroom where lessons can be given by video; work can be given out and returned for marking etc. The school is looking into providing training for parents as well.</p> <p>It also has the facility for chat rooms so that there can be interaction between the children – this would be monitored by the teacher.</p>	
<p><i>Parents wanted to know what mental health resources the school might recommend given this year's events.</i></p> <p>RMcK wants to be cautious about throwing out too much information, but she has researched these resources and a letter has gone out today with some resources highlighted. These have been collated based on recommendations from NHS and other schools.</p> <p>In addition, in class the children are doing lots of 'Time to Talk' every day. The executive headteacher (Mrs Dolman) is speaking with Cheshire East to see if there is any further support available. The school is aware that some children may be finding things very difficult this year and will be mindful of this and offer further help and support if needed individually.</p>	
<p><i>Are after school clubs going to be returning or is this not possible with the current restrictions?</i></p> <p>After school clubs are not possible at the moment as they create too much risk, and so the Trust has decided that they cannot be offered. As soon as the risk is lowered the directors and head will try to offer clubs then. It was noted that Mrs Palin is trying hard to provide fun activities at break and after school, but has few resources.</p>	
<p>School Work</p>	
<p><i>Concern about reading levels (particularly for Yr 1) – children were coming home with books that were too easy. Also concern that communication regarding learning and reading levels could be better with some parents not understanding how to help children progress at home.</i></p> <p>RMcK noted that the school has to follow a set programme that includes consolidation of learning – they need to ensure that the children have definitely covered off certain sounds, or they will struggle later on. So they are revisiting and consolidating previous learning before moving on. Reading levels are being assessed again this week.</p> <p>Re helping parents to understand how to help: last year the school ran a parent 'Read Write' meeting. They will consider doing this again. Also, there is lots of</p>	

<p>information on the school website. School has purchased the Read Write Inc platform, and will notify parents when this is available. It will contain videos to help with home learning/support.</p>	RMcK
<p><i>A number of parents are keen to receive more personalised examples of what their children are doing at school, in addition to generic examples available on Facebook or the reception website. They are aware of apps such as Eylog and Tapestry being used in other reception settings and historically also at Acton. Is it possible for this type of app to be reinstated?</i></p> <p>School uses TargetTracker for the EYFS which is an assessment tool. Parents can see what they child has done on that. It is only available for Early Years and Special Educational Needs children. It is harder to provide this for older year groups, but the school is looking into it.</p>	
<p><i>Homework – is this now being given, as Year 5 children have come home with homework.</i></p> <p>RMcK said that this was just given to the children of extra things they could do in relation to their science topic if they wanted to – there is no return date, and no requirement for them to do it. The children had just asked for it.</p>	
<p>General</p>	
<p><i>A concern was raised that some children seem to get chosen for everything and some children don't get chosen at all, and that a change of approach to choosing needs to be considered.</i></p> <p>RMcK and JH told the council that there had been 17 applicants for Head Boy/Girl, and they took a full week to carry out all the interviews. There was a strict selection process and the interviews were rated to ensure that the correct candidates were chosen for the roles. RMcK noted that the role would not suit every child – they wouldn't enjoy it and didn't want to set children up to fail. They have instead created more varied leadership roles for Year 6, so that almost every child that wanted a leadership role now has one – they have House Captains, Junior Safety Officers, Eco Warriors, Collective Worship Ambassadors. They have tried to match the children to what they wanted to do.</p>	
<p><i>Some parents have said children are consistently bringing snacks home uneaten and are very hungry at the end of school. Are they being encouraged to eat snacks, and enough at lunch?</i></p> <p>RMcK said that they try to encourage the children to eat and drink, but can't force them. The children are often too excited with wanting to play instead at break times.</p>	
<p><i>Can invoices for breakfast and after school club be broken down by session rather than in full?</i></p> <p>At the moment the system doesn't allow for a breakdown, but Mrs Palin has said that she will email a list of sessions to individual parents if they request them.</p>	
<p><i>Concerns about wet PE kits, particularly shoes, being left at school – could they be sent home more regularly?</i></p> <p>RMcK confirmed that PE kits can come home whenever needed. She will remind the teachers to remind the children to take them home when needed. Re. wet trainers, Years 4, 5 and 6 leave their trainers outside the classroom to dry. RMcK will remind the other classes, and check which classes might not have room for this.</p>	RMcK

Date : 12 October 2020



<p><i>Please can the school provide an overview of the implementation of 'traffic light' behaviour management system, with examples? Currently many parents are receiving anecdotal and often unreliable examples from their children and they would welcome further clarification.</i></p> <p>RMcK said that the behaviour policy is available on the school website, which gives further clarification of the traffic light system. Mrs McKinlay will email this out to reception parents. Also, the class teacher reviews the expected behaviours daily in the classroom with the children.</p> <p>If parents wish to have direct communication with the class teachers, the teachers' email addresses are on the website on the separate class pages.</p>	RMcK
Any other business	
<p>Year 5 – the children are to be reminded to bring their diaries home every day</p> <p><i>How is the school bridging the gap of education missed during lockdown?</i></p> <p>The school is running a 'catch up curriculum', so they have temporarily removed art, RE, and topic work so that they can revisit core elements from the previous year, and once that has been established, they will move on to current year work. This will mean there shouldn't be any gaps in core learning. The children are all doing 1 ½ hour of maths, and 1 ½ hour of English every day.</p>	RMcK
<p><i>What is the current system for lost property?</i></p> <p>The parent can email in or put a note in the communication diary if any items have been lost. The children are all staying within their bubbles though, so any lost items shouldn't have gone anywhere other than the classroom.</p>	
<p>Social media: RMcK told the Council that there was an incident a couple of weeks ago where inappropriate comments and images relating to a member of staff were shared on a parents WhatsApp group. This is not acceptable. The school will not tolerate inappropriate communication. Any communication, but particularly communication shared on online forums, should never be personal or unkind. Any specific issues or concerns that parents have should be fed through the appropriate channels so that they can be properly addressed. The Parent Council supports the school in this.</p>	
<p>Mrs McKinlay thanked parents for their support during what has been, and continues to be, very difficult times, and the school is also here to support the children and their families.</p>	

Next Meeting:6.00 pm, 18th January 2021