

St James' Church of England First School
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Acting Headteacher: Miss Joanne Hudson
Head of School: Mrs Kathryn Cousins

22 May 2018

Parent Council Agenda

Wednesday 9th May @ 2pm

1. Welcome and Apologies- JH, TB, RD, LK, DH, JC sent apologies via email
2. Minutes of the last meeting 22nd March

We discussed and updated on minutes of last meeting.

- Traffic- JH has investigated and seems we need to put a 'case' together on why we feel the speed should be lowered/ traffic calming measures be put in place. This case needs to be submitted to the Parish Council and they will take it up with the Police Department for road safety.
Involving school council, and the local community during the school summer fair we are going to promote our cause and ask people to sign a petition as a first course of action. RD investigated 'Speed watch' group within Alderholt who were unable to help on this occasion.
- Uniform- LK updated us that she is going to go through the spare uniform (with SR in office) in hope that we can use it for 'Bags 2 School' collection. Query over badged clothing will be investigated.
TB mentioned a query with 2 jumpers being sold on the Tesco website- JH will ask SR to investigate.

3. Funding update

JH updated on where we are currently with funding and grants. We have received £500 from Masons and have another chq to come from them, amount yet unknown. This chq will be received at summer fair.

We have current bids in with Co-op, Tesco bags for schools and Talbot Trust. We are collecting 'Bags 2 School' which will bring in an amount for bike/ scooter storage.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with Solar Farm and 2 Bridges on this occasion.

Chapel working party have partially cleared the pond area- JH will speak with SB regards further grounds/ garden work as a working party.

FSJ have very kindly brought new netball posts, PA system and brush screening for Hedgehogs area. JH will enquire with CB regards the FSJ linked website which fundraises for purchases online- we believe money is owing on this.

JH will investigate other large funding pots which we may be able to bid for.

4. Questionnaire

JH explained we will be sending the annual questionnaire in the summer term and asked for parents views on a selection of HAT examples; including one which St James' has sent previously.

It was felt that our own questionnaire was fine although all agreed to a couple of changes.

Wording around 'bullying' will be changed to something less emotive. It was felt a more positive spin could be put on the question.

A question is to be added around communication with parents.

Question regarding invites to worship made clearer.

Additional comments column made bigger.

TB suggested giving out the letter for the survey during the week of parents evening and giving parents the opportunity of completing the survey paper/ online when they come in for parent consultations. JH will action this for week beginning 21st May.

5. AOB

Noise levels during 'Tuesday read' mornings were raised as parents can find it difficult to hear their children reading when other children in class are not reading themselves. JH will discuss with staff.

Communication was raised as still needing to be improved. It was felt Parentmail or a text service may be more efficient and JH will look into costs, although thinks it's unlikely to be affordable at this point.

Dates on the school website are not being transferred across from school calendar. JH will take this up with the office and investigate other methods with IT company for sharing the school online calendar.

It was felt that there was confusion over events and exactly when/ where they were happening. RD suggested that if the school calendar is updated electronically he could write this up weekly in the playground so all parents have sight of immediate events.

The mixing of years 3 and 4 was raised in terms of how well this has prepared the children for their transfer to middle school. Are the year 4s given enough responsibility, privileges to make them feel like the oldest children in school? JH explained that the class merger has not affected them academically in any way but will discuss with staff ways in which independence could be fostered. JH will also discuss with staff how, for the remainder of the year and going into next academic year, more could be done to separate the classes.