



**St Michael's CE Junior School  
Minutes of Parents' Forum held on Microsoft Teams at 2pm  
on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent:</b>
Steph Tyler (HT)	Anne Burgato (yr 5)
Rev. Alwyn Pereira (Governor)	Ashlie Clift (yr6)
Lisa Greenwood (yr6)	Samantha Hewett (yr6)
Adam Heike (yr4)	Ann-Marie White (yr4)
Holly King (yr4)	
Helen Le Page (yr6)	
Rachael Measey (yr4)	
Clarissa Middleton (yr4)	
Melanie Nicholls (yr6)	

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> A-M W	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meetings:</b> the last face-to-face meeting was held on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 and Minutes had been circulated. The agenda for the last scheduled meeting had been addressed by ST and circulated. The Parents' Forum agreed both as an accurate record.	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from the last meeting</b></p> <p>a) Playground puddle: Previously it was reported that Mr Fox had cleared drains and was monitoring the situation. County had been approached to do some work but had said it was not serious enough to allocate funding currently. The school is continuing to keep an eye on the situation; so far there have been no major issues.</p> <p>b) State of the PTA; Some parents are still doing a few fundraising activities, such as the recent Christmas card designs, as funds are still needed. For example, the Kings Theatre in Portsmouth are putting on a pantomime that the school can purchase to live-stream for the children. This would usually be something the PTA would fund. RM asked if the school could set up a Just-Giving page or similar so that parents who were willing could make a small donation. ST asked how parents felt about this idea, given that many families in the community are finding life difficult in the current climate, with depleted funds of their own, and she is conscious that the school have already asked recently for donations to the Poppy appeal and Children in Need. CM said it would be a good idea if it is presented in a careful way, making clear that it is in no way compulsory, but is just a suggestion for those parents who would like to donate. HK commented that since we can't do things like baking cakes any more, it would be a good option to make donations for parents who still appreciate the opportunities these funds can provide for their children at school. Another suggestion is 'Amazon Smile', where parents at the Infant school are able to select the school to receive a donation. ST said this had also been mentioned to her by the school office, and will look into this as a possibility for the Juniors. NB: Note following meeting; Amazon Smile cannot currently be used as the PTA is not a registered charity so we do not fit the criteria. Mrs Woodhouse (School Business Manager) is looking into the Just Giving option.</p>	ST
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Items raised for Discussion</b></p> <p>a) What were everyone's experiences with the virtual Parents Consultations this term? ST had moved them to before half term to give parents an earlier chance to talk to the teachers and was interested in parents' experiences. AH commented that his experience was generally good but since they hadn't managed a video call it felt slightly impersonal. ST said she would add into the newsletter that it will be possible for parents to request a video call in cases such as these where the technology had not worked. AH asked if parents evenings could be spread over several nights to allow parents longer to talk with teachers. ST explained that the recent virtual parents' evenings had run over eight nights, which is too long to continue with under normal circumstances. Parents evenings are designed to be a</p>	ST



	<p>short catch-up and if a longer discussion is required then parents can request a separate appointment to discuss more in-depth issues. HK's experience of the parents evening was 'absolutely brilliant', as it allayed some concerns they had had following the teacher videos posted at the end of the summer term. They were able to get to know the teacher much better through a personal video consultation. Other parents' experiences were also broadly positive.</p> <p>RM wanted to clarify that there are normally two parents' evenings in the year. ST confirmed this and mentioned that the second normally follows an interim report to be used as a talking point, and is planned to be held in March. RM brought up the recent reports in the news of testing being carried out in schools. ST said that whilst tests do have a part to play, schools should be focussing on what children are able to do regularly and on their own; this is not necessarily clear from tests, which don't give a clear picture of the child as a whole. In school, diagnostic assessments are currently being carried out in the form of 'quizzes'.</p> <p>b) What are parents and children's experiences of using Class Dojo? The impression of staff is that it is being used more now, however some parents have issues with it. For instance, HIP had been unable to access the teacher videos via Class Dojo, was unable to upload videos and hadn't been receiving notifications. CM thought it was a good platform to have access to, and it avoided the need to bring items in and out of school. RM had been disappointed that her daughter only received brief comments on work she had submitted in lockdown, a view echoed by HK. ST noted this and added that a lot of work had been added by lots of children and that teachers during this time were trying to juggle and prioritise the different aspects to their job at the time, but she understood and appreciated the point being made. ST said she would feed back to staff the general point re comments.</p> <p>c) Is there progress on recruiting a replacement for George, the lollipop man? ST had contacted the LA last week, who have short-listed two people for the role. Interviews were to be held on Friday so she would try to find out more the following week. NB Note following meeting – update noted in Newsletter 27.11.20</p>	ST
6	<p><b>Fundraising and extracurricular events</b></p> <p>a) Will Year 6 be able to do Bikeability this year? ST said that from the point of view of COVID safety she was not sure what Bikeability had in place, but that it should be possible. The date is already booked in the diary as she remembers asking for it to be booked and should be going ahead. She will check. NB Note following meeting – Bikeability is currently booked for week of 17<sup>th</sup> May</p> <p>b) Will there be any Harvest Festival collections/celebrations this year? There have been worships and celebrations held in school (Rev Alwyn had also done some of these via video to continue our church/school link), but the Foodbank had been in touch to request no donations this year as they were in the fortunate position of not needing any.</p> <p>c) Christmas/Seasonal events. As there can be no Christmas performance the school are looking at ways to produce something that can be streamed out to parents, whilst staying within Covid guidelines.</p> <p>AP said that parents/children look forward to things like the ShoeBox Service, Christmas Fayres, Christingle and the Nativity, all of which are likely to face restrictions this year. One suggestion being promoted in conjunction with Rushmoor Borough Council, is for the children to come out to their door steps at 6pm on Christmas Eve (perhaps in nativity costumes!) and ring a bell and sing a carol. The Church also have a nominated charity for this year. AP has also organised a Christingle film for the Infant school, with a pdf of instructions on how to make your own, and offered to do the same for the Juniors. He is also creating, with the help of the Infants, a prayer card and helpline.</p>	ST
7	<p><b>Issues raised by Parents' Forum members</b></p> <p>a) A group on Facebook are collecting crisp packets to be turned into blankets for the homeless. Is this something the school would be interested in getting involved with? Potentially yes, but ST pointed out that the school is already collecting crisp packets for the air ambulance charity, so this idea is probably best left for a while.</p> <p>b) One parent spoke for many when he commented "at school drop off I've noticed an increasing number of kids on their mobile phones whilst on the school grounds. They are</p>	



	<p>not being used as a phone (no child ever does!) but as a computer. This morning outside my child's classroom there were five kids holding phones and a group of five or six kids huddled around one screen, not at all socially distanced. I know at Alderwood phones are to be in bags on school grounds or confiscated. I thought something similar was meant to happen at the Juniors but looks as though it's being missed." CM also noted that there are more groups of parents forming and chatting without social distancing. ST had already drafted a letter to be sent home to parents reminding them to tell their children the rules around taking mobile phones to school, and that consistent rule-breaking would lead to phones being removed.</p>	ST
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>a) RM asked if the playground dots for Curie class could be moved to account for the fact the scaffolding is no longer in place. ST said she would look into this.</p> <p>b) HK asked if ST will be playing a part in the recruitment process for the replacement of Mrs Mathias at the Infant School on her retirement. ST confirmed that she will be involved to some extent.</p> <p>c) HIP wanted to pass on her thanks to the school staff for their support, communication and work provided during lockdown. She felt that Junior school provision for children and parents was so much better than some other local schools and the staff must have worked very hard to achieve this. RM added her thanks for all the work going on at such a difficult time, and also noted that she hears from her child that all the Covid measures such as handwashing and room ventilation are being carried out regularly, which is much appreciated. ST thanked parents for their comments and promised to pass them on to staff.</p>	ST

The meeting closed at 2.50pm

**Date of next meeting: TBA**

**Agenda items to be sent to Melanie Nicholls**

Signed.....Date.....

**Steph Tyler (Headteacher) – Chair**