

## **Minutes of Parent / Carers Reps Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Attended by: Gary Murrell (Executive Headteacher), Anna Coleman (Deputy Head for Inclusion), Simon Shand (Deputy Head for Teaching and Learning), Caroline Service (Parent Rep for Nursery), Segolen Goodbourn (Parent Rep for Reception), Diana Rakhimova (Parent Rep for Year 2), Kirrillie Harvey (Parent Rep for Year 5)

### **Matters arising from the last meeting**

- The Playground - The PTA are still fundraising for the playground and are aiming to make themselves a charity to help with this. They are planning to fund raise for improvements, one stage at a time and get the whole community involved. Mr Murrell explained that, at the moment, the priority for the school budget's capital funding is to replace the interactive whiteboards in the classrooms. Mrs Coleman also said that she is planning a meeting with the teaching assistants, who are on duty during morning playtimes, to review the best use of the playground and playground rules. Mr Murrell and Mrs Coleman will continue to have meetings with the lunchtime supervisors to improve the lunchtime experience.
- Mrs Coleman said how much the school has benefited from volunteer parents this term and thanked volunteer parents who were present at the meeting. Mrs Service said that the PTA would like to encourage more volunteering from parents, asking for a wish list from staff.

### **General Issues, Concerns, and /or Suggestions**

- PE - Positive comments was made about the Running Club as it increased the exercise opportunities for the children. A question was raised as to whether all pupils the opportunities to run in PE lessons. Mr Shand, as PE Leader, agreed this was important and said he would monitor this. Mrs Service, as Chair of the PTA, is looking for sponsorship from a 'Walking around the World' charity which may be able to provide pedometers for the children.
- Attendance – some parents had expressed concern about the attendance letters and had questioned the amount of time the letters had stated that their children were absent. Mrs Coleman explained that each day counts for two sessions and that the school were obliged to use the letters created by the local authority, in order to increase attendance in Hounslow and in case future fines had to be issued. She stated that since the school has sent out these letters each term, attendance at Cavendish had gone up. One parent asked if there could be future flexibility about when the Autumn Term ends.
- Playground Buddies - a questions was asked about Buddies in the playground for children needing help. Mr Shand said that this term School Council had concentrated on Fund raising but next term they would look into this.
- House Points – a question was raised about how these work. Mrs Coleman explained that there were three house teams and house points were used by Key Stage 2 to reward children for effort, behaviour and work. The school is considering how to improve the reward for the team which wins the most points each term. The younger classes use different reward systems, e.g. collecting 'marbles in the jar' in order to earn a reward for the whole class.
- Trips – a question was asked about the visibility of the children on trips, if they got separated. Should they have visibility vests? Mr Shand explained that in risk assessments it is stated that the children should stay together, e.g. on the same floor. The school does now have wrist bands for each child to wear, with the school details and contact number.

- Mr Murrell said that he had received a letter from a parent asking about communication about how individual children are achieving in school. He said that he hope the school will soon have a new management integration system which will improve this. The letter asked about challenging gifted and talented pupils. Mr Murrell explained the school's belief in a growth mind-set where all children are challenged and expected to work hard in order to achieve their best. The government no longer asks schools to identify 'gifted and talented' pupils as this is often not a predictor of long term success and can give a counterproductive message that children have 'natural' talent and do not have to work hard.
- ParentMail – a positive comment was made about ParentMail messages from school but a request was made for more information from afterschool clubs.