

Parent Council Meeting  
Tuesday 14th March 2017, 9.15-10.30am

Attendees: Selwyn Staff: Lisa Bogle (LB), Head of School  
Sophie Curtis (SC), PE Coordinator

Parents:	Martha Kilner (MK)	Fang Liu (FL)
	Helen Wagner (HW)	Pegsy Bennett (PB)
	Jade Holt (JH)	Miriam Garry-Baker (MGB)
	Radu Popescu (RP)	Paula Caiger (PC)

Apologies: Sinead Carey, Jenny Sullam, Daniella Piletto, Helen Dor, Satvinder Cubb

LB welcomed everyone and reiterated that the agenda is to be set, in the main, by parents.

### **PE**

SC fed back to parents about PE Coordinator training she has recently been on called 'Real PE'. This programme of study has been started in year 2 and is being disseminated to staff through lesson observations. Through 'Active Learning' and 'Active Maths' SC is beginning to get staff to incorporate PE into other subjects. The focus is on agility, balance and coordination.

There has been a focus on increasing the number of competitions children are taking part in. Recently there has been:

Golf competition, year and 2

Netball, year 4 and 5

Athletics, year 3 and 4

The summer breakdown is yet to be planned by there will be a Jump Rope for Heart day.

The year 5s are training to become 'sports leaders' to enable them to set up PE clubs at lunch time.

The school has applied for tickets to watch London Athletics,.

LB said it has been difficult to maintain sports coaches for a number of reasons and that the school is on the lookout for a permanent sports coach.

All children should be getting changed for PE. If this is not the case, please speak to your class teacher. LB will email staff to remind them of this.

Currently, due to building works, the full 2 hours of PE may not be met in every class although children are regularly taken for 'brain breaks'.

The school can use Parmiters Field and as the weather improves, PE lessons can take place here.

### **Playground**

Fewer accidents are happening at playtime since the children have been using a smaller area of playground. HW reported that following a recent learning walk, she was impressed with the huge amount of work that goes into keeping the school site and children safe. Risk assessments continually happen.

MGB and MK queried the reception children not having enough free space to access to run around in. LB reported that the reception can use the upper playground next to their playground. LB said some remedial work needs to happen to enclose this area.

### **Building**

The works are currently 3 weeks ahead of schedule so should be ready around February 2018 and ready to move in around May/June 2018.

All work will be halted to allow for quiet during KS2, KS1 and Phonics assessments.

### **Special Interest Days**

FL queried the timing of some of the special interest days that parents are invited to (such as Science Day on 13/3/17) and the timing being awkward for some parents to attend e.g. a 10am start. LB fed back that these events need to fit round the essential lessons children are doing such as daily phonics. Also the amount of time teachers need to set up activities, especially those events with a lot of equipment, such a science activity. LB felt that because there are so many ways parents can get involved, they have more freedom to pick and choose the ones that work for their schedule. However, the school will be cutting back on how many special interest days there are as they are using up a lot of learning time that children could be doing.

### **Attendance**

There is a huge problem with poor attendance at Selwyn and at Davies Lane and it is getting worse. Some of this is because of non-statutory age children having poor attendance. Approximately 3 children on roll are 'missing in education' and cannot be removed until their whereabouts is confirmed. Traveller children's attendance affects attendance results too but a large proportion is due to 'sickness' directly before and after a half term/end of term break. Fixed penalty notices are being issued. Homelessness is a factor since families can be moved into 'emergency accommodation' and believe they will be re-housed nearer to school but often it can mean moving far away for up to 7 years and travelling long distances to school.

Parents were invited to make suggestions as to how the school can improve on this.

The school already rewards classes with 100% attendance with a meal at Pizza Express and children with 100% attendance get some stationary as a reward. MK suggested offering a 100% attendance award more frequently such as every half term for children who have achieved 100% within that half term and a clean slate starting each half term. Or even a weekly 100% attendance reward such as 30 minutes activity on a Friday afternoon for everyone with 100% attendance that week. Or simply a 100% certificate at the end of the week written and distributed by teacher/TA.

MK spoke about an initiative in another school where, at the end of the summer term, all children moved on to their new teacher for the final week. This stopped families taking children out at the end of term as children didn't want to miss this important milestone. It cancelled out 'winding down' as the new teachers planned 'get-to-know-you' activities and could assess the class. It reduced anxiety for the children in September too as they were returning after the summer already familiar with their new teacher and classroom.

Gina (family liaison) can and has helped families with getting them to school looking at a range of factors such as getting children to bed early enough to wake in time for school or

looking at their diet if they frequently have stomach issues. Gina also carries out 'poor attendance' meetings, as does Mr Thompson-Clarke as a next step.

The school could be clear on newsletters that the school will be following up on all absences and asking for a reason.

Could the school complete a 'back to school' questionnaire for each absence. Either verbally on the phone or written/Survey Monkey.

**Next Meeting:**

29/3/17, 6.30pm

16/5/17, 9.15am

**Agenda for 16/5/17**

1. Review of Minutes from the last meeting
2. Attendance - is there an improvement since 14/3/17?
3. School Cook to provide samples and meet with parents
4. Lunch Bunch to discuss their role
5. Look at data from SATs
6. Look at data for more able children from disadvantaged backgrounds