

## Davies Lane Parent Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

<b>Present:</b>	Josie Hunt, Charlotte Beaulah, Jane Jin, June Alle, Nardjess Bououdine, Jack Fortescue, , Amanda Barker, Nabila Lebdjiri, Fiona Sinclair, Helen Westerby, Jack Tremewen, Annette Loakes, Sham Hayat, Sarah Cottrill, Kate Roberts Asa Eriksson, Wilford Roberts, Bronwen Chalmers, Jenni Walsh, Maureen Okoye.
<b>Apologies:</b>	Kate Chester, Veselin Nikolov, Erika Hegedus, Samim Patel, Olwen Cowen, Sarah Falola
<b>Next Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
1.	<p><b>May Minutes Sign Off</b> The minutes were signed off without amendment</p>
2.	<p><b>Review of Actions from Last Meeting</b></p> <p><i>Actions Completed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School to put some content into bug club</li> <li>● Recruitment of new members and position of outgoing members to be added to agenda for next meeting</li> <li>● New Reception Parent info packs to include something about attendance and how to apply for a PC role</li> <li>● Parents to report problems with non-occurrence of PE (There appeared to be no problems with PE since the last meeting)</li> </ul> <p><i>In Progress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>E-Communication</b> - School to continue to collect email addresses from parents</li> <li>● <b>Translators</b> - School to continue to collect a bank of translators (<i>Russian highlighted as being a key language to find</i>)</li> <li>● <b>Website</b> – parent governors were able to look at the website before go-live but the website will not be right until the school take over control from the web design company. The school were hopeful that this would happen by September. Parents agreed that having full and correct content on the school calendar and the homework area of the site were the most important things for current parents.</li> <li>● <b>Y3 Teaching</b> - School to investigate depth of teaching in Y3</li> <li>● <b>Homework</b> - School to proofread homework for spellings and grammatical errors</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>School Led Topic – Progress for Disadvantaged (Pupil Premium) Children</b></p> <p>Data on PP children is a key priority on the School Development Plan. Data was looked at by the PC in a previous meeting but this meeting revolved around book scrutiny. PC members were asked to look at individual children’s books from September through to End of Year for a range of children and subjects. The idea being to see if good progress could be evidenced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The school get extra funding from the government for PP children and need to keep track of how the money is spent. They also need to analyse the effectiveness</li> </ul>

## Davies Lane Parent Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

	<p>of spending. Money is spent to try to support academic attainment but also on wider enrichment activities e.g. drama, karate and instrumental music lessons. Giving children experiences that they may not have access to outside of the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Due to changing demographic, the % of PP children in the school and the borough is reducing year on year</li> <li>● It is important to remember that PP does not equal low ability</li> <li>● The Y2 provision is a good way of identifying PP children, engaging their parents and keeping them in the school</li> <li>● The school keeps a Grid per year group which shows very clearly where children in the year group are. PP children are marked in red so it is very easy to see how they have performed and the progress they have made. The school can then move on to look at the narrative behind any particular child.</li> <li>● Book review is important because you can triangulate what is shown on the grid with the books. Just because a child hasn't moved box doesn't mean that no progress has been made.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Book review feedback</i></b></p> <p>The PC were as always very impressed with the work in the books. It was easy to see a real difference in progress from the beginning to the end of the year. There were visible improvements in Language, punctuation and quality of work and clear improvements in handwriting.</p> <p>Not surprisingly the PC found it was much easier to see progress in the earlier years than further up the school. The school explained that Y 4/5/6 is more about refining skills so can be more about flare, slipping from informal to formal, subtleties of language, humour etc.</p> <p>The PC commented on how it was clear that pupils were succeeding very well at using challenging language but were sometimes missing out simple prepositions etc., thus backing up the school's new focus on keeping repeating the basics (as the new style homework supports).</p> <p>The school explained that they had adopted a new marking system around not just congratulating a pupil on using the thing that is being talked about at the time, but also correcting if other things in the sentence don't make sense i.e. time connectives, positional language etc. This change in marking strategy was clearly visible to see in the books.</p>
3.	<p><b>Update on Attendance</b></p> <p>The school reported on an improvement in attendance since the last meeting on this topic. The school level of 95.4% is still below the national average of 96.1% however this figure includes religious holidays which though have to be included in the statutory absence data,</p>

## Davies Lane Parent Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

	<p>can be used as a narrative to explain the lower figure. Importantly, persistent absence is now below the national average.</p> <p>The school now have a member of staff for whom part of their role is looking after attendance. The will analyse data, keep case files and liaise with parents.</p> <p>Some PC members expressed concern about the fact that children that are not actually in the school need to be kept on roll (and count for attendance stats) until the school has an update on where they have gone to. The school explained that though this might have a short term impact, the attendance was reset back to the date of leaving once the child comes off roll.</p> <p>Other parents pointed out to examples of poor and incorrect coding of absences and felt that if attendance was of such high priority then the school should try harder to get the recording of it correct. The school confirmed that this was an area that they were working on.</p> <p>The 100% attendance reward was once again questioned. The school's stance was that whilst it is not perfect, it was put in to increase attendance and it has achieved that goal, so they will stick with it going forward. The school conceded that they did not want sick children to be stigmatised so will be looking carefully at instances of that happening.</p> <p><b>Punctuality</b></p> <p>Parents questioned whether punctuality was also being looked at as it is so disruptive when children come in late. The school confirmed that work on improving punctuality was also ongoing.</p>
4.	<p><b>End of Year Evaluation</b></p> <p>Discussion focussed around the changing role and remit of the PC. Because the PC has moved away from being a channel for communication to and from other parents to something focussing purely on standards the PC felt that this needed to be made clearer to both prospective PC reps and other parents. The other problem the PC felt needed to then be addressed is that there now was a bit of a communication void for parents, particularly working ones who can't come to the coffee mornings. The standard response is usually to email the generic school office address but parents felt that this wasn't well responded to.</p> <p>The PC felt that as the school grows it should start thinking about this including the possibility of options for closed channel online forums.</p> <p>The school pointed out that parents could contact whoever they wanted within the school by emailing the generic office address but with FAOpersonname in the title of the email and then their email would be passed on to whoever they wanted to personally contact.</p>

## Davies Lane Parent Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

	<p>The PC thought that this was a good option but one that needed to be communicated to parents possibly via the school newsletter.</p> <p>The PC also felt that SL presence on the school gate was a great way for parents to get access to the SL team in an informal way but that had been seen less of late. The school said that there would be more SL coverage next year when two assistant heads would be moving out of having their own form groups.</p>
5.	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departing members were thanked for their contribution</li> <li>• The Chair informed the PC of his intention to step down. It was agreed that he would chair the first meeting of the New Year where nominations for a new chair would be voted on.</li> <li>• Fiona Sinclair handed over Olive Class rep role to Wilford Roberts but for the time being will continue to attend in role of parent governor/PC secretary</li> <li>• The School and PC will work together to get the letter for prospective members reworded to say more about remit. Letters and interviews should take place promptly, so that new members are able to attend the first meeting of the year.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>AOB/Other subjects Discussed</b></p> <p><b>Thanks</b> – The school thanked the PC for their work during the year.</p> <p><b>Revisiting School Trips</b> – For the current term because of the terror threat all trips to central London have been cancelled so Y5 will not be going to the National Gallery. The school also explained that they were cutting back on trips next year on the grounds of unsustainable cost. A lot of the expense is around transport. Coaches that are suitable for children are difficult to find and are very expensive as you usually need two. Though most trips are subsidised by FODL there is always a huge deficit as many parents don't pay. On being asked by the PC, the school confirmed that the deficit was more than FoDL could fund.</p> <p>PC members had a number of thoughts and ideas on this topic including ideas for more local visits and better communication around the actual cost of trips and how they are subsidised. PC members questioned why more people could not be brought into the school. The school said that they liked to bring people in but that parents were even less likely to pay for this.</p> <p><b>Streaming</b> - The school explained that how (and if) children were streamed in Y5 differs from year to year depending on resourcing and cohort. It was envisaged that next year's Y5 would be streamed within their classes and no additional teachers would be involved. In Y6 Miss Walters and Miss Corderoy will not be having their own form classes but will act as the extra teachers in Y6 for Literacy and Maths.</p>

## Davies Lane Parent Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

	<p><b>Staffing</b> - The school confirmed that though some teachers would be leaving at the end of the year, recruitment had already taken place and the school were fully staffed for the start of the year.</p> <p><b>SATS</b> - Parents wondered when the SATS results would be released to parents. The school confirmed that the SATS results would be released very shortly. Y2 SATS were in line with previous years, the Y6 SATS results were a little disappointing particularly in Maths where results were not as good as the previous year.</p> <p><b>STEM</b> - One member of the PC was interested in what the school were doing to try to engage girls in programming. The school explained that coding starts in the curriculum with Y5 but that STEM skills were being given a big push at the moment with lots of teacher training concentrating on teaching STEM skills.</p>
5.	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Translators</b> - ongoing work to get a bank of translators on tap</li> <li>● <b>Website</b> - School to improve content and correct mistakes on the website by September and in particular make sure the calendar and homework areas have full and correct content.</li> <li>● <b>Absences</b> - School to do a push on getting the coding of absences correct to support the focus on attendance.</li> <li>● <b>Contact</b> - School to publicise to parents that they can contact members of staff/SLT by emailing the school office address with 'FAOpersonname' in the heading.</li> <li>● <b>New Members</b> - school to send out letters to prospective members from new reception classes and classes with vacancies during the first weeks of term. Letters should have more of an emphasis on the remit of the PC.</li> <li>● <b>Interviews</b> - PC to interview and appoint new members before the first meeting of the year</li> </ul>