

# Langafel Parent Council Digest

May 2018

Your Parent Council has been working hard, talking with Senior Leaders to help 'our' school be the best it can be. We've been looking at a range of things that parents have told us are important to them in supporting their child's learning at school.

The agendas and minutes of our meetings can be found on the school website if you have a larger appetite for the detailed discussions. However, we are all busy people, so here is a brief summary of what has been discussed and what the outcomes are from the last two terms' meetings.

**We are now looking for an additional representative for each phase, so that each phase can be represented if the 'main' rep is unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason. We need you! Get in touch if you would like to get involved.**

Do keep talking to us – parent partnership in school is so important for all our children's success.

Kind regards,

Julie Howlett (Chairperson) and Parent Council

<b>Parents said:</b>	<b>School's response</b>
We need more notice for school events like dressing up, trips and such things. A few days' notice is not enough.	*Staff have been given guidance and school aims for a month's notice in these situations. *This has been included in the new staff handbook
We don't know how to communicate with Governors.	*The school website has been updated with the email details for the Chair of Governors and the Clerk to Governors.
When will the flooding issues and potholes be fixed in Gorsewood Road? We are worried about the damage to our cars and the danger to any pedestrians in this area.	*School has paid for this to be drained and cleared. *The local MP is involved in the discussions between KCC Highways and Education departments. *The soakaway is sufficient for the school's needs but the extra houses and building works on Gorsewood Road means that an additional soakaway will be needed in the near future.
Can my child have water with their lunchtime meal, not just after, like has long been the case?	*More cups have been provided by the catering service, meaning children can use while they eat their meal, if requested. *Children are now taking their own water bottles into lunch to have with their meal. *The new Y5 monitors are being trained in supporting the pouring of water from jugs at tables during lunch.
We've not seen any reading rewards, as were detailed by email in November. Where are they?	*Stickers are now being given out for children who read at least 3 times a week at home. Ask your child where their sticker is, as some wear

	<p>them and lose them, and some place them on charts in the classroom.</p> <p>*The end of Term 5 reading certificates should be coming out in the last week of term or the first week back in the new term. The recipients may be detailed in the weekly. Look out for details.</p>
Why did school not take part in Autism Awareness week, especially given we have the SLIC unit?	* We wanted to give the week the focus it deserves at a 'slower' time in the school calendar, so we are having a 'Neurodiversity Week' in Term 6. Look out for details.
What are the school's policies and practices around sun safety/sun cream/hydration in the sun/heat?	<p>* We are a Sun Safe school and will publish the details of these things on the website.</p> <p>*We try and give reminders in the Weekly briefing.</p> <p>*Be assured that when it is very sunny/hot for a period of time, children's play is moved to more shaded areas.</p>
How do the Attendance Awards work?	*Each week, each pupil who has 100% for that week will add a ticket to the draw. More weeks of 100% attendance means more chances to win in the end of term draw, where 4 children's names will be pulled from the raffle style draw. The winners will receive £30 in Bluewater vouchers. "You've got to be in to win!"
Some children find the noise on school trips a challenge. Can this be planned for?	*Staff will include consideration of this and use of ear defenders in their trip planning in future.
The mid-September 'Meet the Teacher' meetings are too late to be useful or meaningful. Can this be moved so we know where to go/what to do at the start of the academic year?	*The Meet the Teacher meetings will take place in July from now on, prior to the new academic year.
The Rainbow tracker doesn't tell me specifically what I can do to support my child. Can it be made more specific?	<p>*Following parent feedback about this, the rainbow tracker is a work in progress. We will keep listening and adapting to parent's suggestions.</p> <p>*Expected arrows were added from Term 2 this year, to illustrate the average 'expected' level for each stage of the year in each year group.</p> <p>*Next academic year, English will be split into Reading and Writing strands, so that progress can be tracked in each of these strands of English specifically.</p>
I'd still like to have progress meetings with my child's teacher more than once a year.	<p>* There will now be two parents meetings a year from September 2018.</p> <p>The first will take place in early October and the second in Term 4.</p>

Do contact the Chair of PC ([parentcouncil@langafel.kent.sch.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@langafel.kent.sch.uk)) or catch a parent rep for your phase if there is something else you wish to be raised and discussed in PC. Don't be shy! School leaders will not know how things are from a parent perspective unless we share open and constructive discussion with them!