

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Code of Conduct
3. **Agenda Topic 1: Communication** - Marvellous Me; Termly calendar; text/email service (Teachers2Parents); paper letters; use of the electronic surveys for trip letters
4. **Agenda Topic 2: Fundraising** - Ideas... what works well? Suggestions for going forward
5. Suggestion Box & close

Mrs Lennon started by sharing results of Parents' Survey in July 2023 – incredibly positive feedback overall which has been shared with all staff. Common thread that needed improvement was communication – hence, on agenda today. Most common issues shared were: parents wanting more notice of events (already actioned – termly events calendar already circulated covering Sept-Dec); the school messaging app isn't great for everyone; too many different channels of communication

3. Communication

Discussed the issues shared in the Parent Survey. Parents discussed on tables as to their personal experiences.

- Not all parents are receiving the same communication – some find the technical issue with the app difficult to manage. **ACTION:** Mrs Lennon/Mrs Clarke to follow up with app provider to discuss issues and see if there was a reason for tech problems.
- Marvellous Me – slight inconsistencies in use between year groups. This isn't always used as was originally intended and some parents don't get any notifications this way which begs the question as to whether it is an effective channel. **ACTION:** Consider alternatives or ways in which we can create consistency with usage that is not overly burdensome for teachers.
- We discussed the school dinners app (School Grid) being another communication channel and whether this could be incorporated in to another system. Mrs Lennon shared that because School Grid is the app of choice for our catering company – Dolce – this isn't something that we have control over unfortunately, but if we were to ever change providers, we could ask if this was something that could change.
- The weekly newsletter is always positive and good to receive at the end of the week. Simple 1-page format works well.
- All agreed that the ideal would be to have one service that could 'do it all' but this may be difficult to source. **ACTION:** Mrs Lennon/Mrs Clarke to do some research to ascertain what the options were for future – we are currently in contract for this year but could look at making a change at the end of contracts.
- Parents shared that it would be nice to be able to respond to messages from teacher and/or perhaps use these tools as a way to communicate with Class Teachers – particularly for working parents who may not be able to get to 'drop off'/'pick up' regularly. **ACTION:** Mrs

Lennon/Mrs Clarke to explore the use of other systems that may offer the functionality to be able to allow parents to message in (possibly Class Dojo?)

- It would be good if one of the apps could integrate a calendar function for parents to reference at a glance at home. **ACTION:** Mrs Lennon to explore if this is an option with current systems.
- Parents asked if the text service could set up a 'join 1st priority' option so both parents receive all messages. **ACTION:** Mrs Lennon to explore if this is an option with current systems.
- Parents asked if there was a way for parents to choose how they want to receive most messages, e.g. – though text only, through email only, through both. **ACTION:** Mrs Lennon to explore if this is an option with current systems.

4. Fundraising

- Mrs Lennon shared the background of fundraising at Dane Bank and the previous use of our “Friends of Dane Bank” PTA-style group. This came to a natural end as COVID was affecting school life and never really picked up again after this.
- Mrs Lennon asked parents to try to make use of any WhatsApp or Facebook groups with other parents to gather any thoughts or informal interest in supporting school by setting up a new “Friends of...” style group to focus on fundraising.
- Discussed options for online/virtual donations rather than relying on cash.
- Discussed challenges of ensuring parents can meet for fundraising-focused meetings.

Agreed that next meeting will continue the fundraising discussion.

Mrs Lennon thanked parents for their contributions and for giving their time in support of school. It has been a very positive and productive meeting.

Next meeting date TBC. Mrs Lennon to circulate after the October half term.

CLOSE