

Emmbrook Junior School Parents Forum

Meeting Minutes

Friday 04 December 2020

09.30 to 10.30 Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Mr Usher (EJS Head), Christine Leddy (Yr 3), Martina Smith (Yr 3), Emma Mitchell (Yr 4), Mell Morris (Yr 4), Emma Wilkinson (Chair, Yr 5), Clare Doyle (Yr 5), Jo Tucker (Yr 6), Cathy O'Connor (Yr 6)

Apologies:

Abbreviations:

SLT Senior Leadership Team

EJS Emmbrook Junior School

EIS Emmbrook Infant School

PPE Personal Protective Equipment

DfE Department for Education

SENCO Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator

1. Welcome & Introductions

Emma W opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending the zoom meeting.

2. Previous minutes – 23rd October 2020

Clare ran through the minutes from the last meeting. Most of the actions from the last meeting have been completed and closed out. The **outstanding actions** from the last meeting are listed below:

- a) **New Scopay system for the clubs to be reviewed following the allocation of clubs for the Autumn/Spring Term; EJS to promote under-subscribed clubs and to liaise with EIS to make sure the clubs letters get issued at the same time.** Mr Usher said there was little uptake for Multi-sports for the January term so the club had to be cancelled as it was not financially viable to run the club. The undersubscribed club had been advertised but there was still not sufficient uptake. There will be more opportunities for clubs when they don't have to be run in year group bubbles. The clubs for each year group had not been rotated to a different day as discussed during the last Forum meeting; Mr Usher apologised as he thought they had.
EJS to confirm that clubs will be rotated to a different day for each year group.
Forum to run 'clubs' as the next topic to canvass parents and find out what parents want, why there isn't a big uptake etc.

3. Parent Feedback

Clare ran through the feedback from parents since the last meeting.

- a) Two specific positive comments had been sent into the Forum. One parent wished to express their thanks to the school for putting BSL on the curriculum. Forum members reiterated this and said how much their children were loving learning BSL and they were bringing it home and demonstrating to their families.

A couple of parents wanted to pass on their thanks for allowing the children to wear their Scouts/Guides uniforms on Remembrance Day. Because of EJS's decision to allow this, two other schools also allowed it. The children felt very proud to wear their uniforms, especially as they did not attend Remembrance Day Parades this year.

- b) The topic of mobile phone usage was raised, in particular children accessing social media sites after school whilst still on school property. Mr Usher said that he was aware of the issue and it has already been addressed in school. Year 5s and Year 6s have been told that they must not have their phone turned on whilst on school property and this includes the bike sheds. The school have reinforced that phones should stay in the pocket/bag until you get home and not be on display whilst the children are walking home.
- c) A parent had commented that sometimes the messages received from EJS and EIS are conflicting or confusing. It is completely understood that the schools are independent and run separately, however, on site wide issues or things such as non-uniform day, it would be good if there was more communication between the two schools. Mr Usher said that he is liaising with EIS and trying to get the communication aligned. Christine noted that the communication from both schools has massively improved over the last few years. Mr Usher will also ask the admin teams from both schools to co-ordinate. **Action: Mr Usher to liaise with EIS to improve joint communication**
- d) Mr Usher wanted to talk to the Forum about the issue of parents not parking considerably in the local area as a complaint had been received by the school from a local resident. Mr Usher has put the topic in the school newsletter and would like to maintain a good relationship with the local residents. Mel reminded Mr Usher that parking is available at the Dog & Duck.

4. Update from Infants Parents Forum

Mel and Christine briefly ran through the items raised at the recent EIS Parents Forum. EIS are putting on a non-uniform day at the end of term (in the absence of a Christmas party/disco). There was a discussion about running a gardening club. Mel said that she works at Syngenta and they can access a fund to provide bulbs or wild-flower seeds for the school. The school will need to write a formal email to Mel. Cathy also said that local developers may contribute, under their biodiversity net gain contributions. **Action: Mr Usher to look into this and discuss with Mrs Hatherley.**

5. AOB

Mr Usher wished to thank all the parents for their contributions for the Foodbank Reverse Advent calendar. The school were blown away by the generosity of the parents.

Emma W. checked whether end of term teacher gifts were allowed and Mr Usher confirmed that they were allowed.

Mr Usher said that the results of the recent assessments will be sent out before the end of term.

Christine informed everyone that Liz Reed has a Foodbank collection outside her house on 43 Clifton Road. Mr Usher said that he would put a note about this in the school newsletter.

6. Next Meeting TBC