



Parent Council Minutes – 17/03/2023

The Council agreed that there were no matters to discuss from the last meeting in February so continued straight in to apologies from members that couldn't make it and from Sarah Holman who was unwell to attend her last meeting prior to leaving Loose Primary School.

Art Curriculum

The main topic of discussion today was regarding our Art Curriculum. Mr Johnson showed the parents examples of Art presented and created by some of our children from varying year groups. It was explained that one of our staff members at Coxheath school had designed the curriculum we deliver here at Loose. The scheme is designed to be immersive and allow children to use their imaginations and become artists. The scheme is designed to be high quality so children are only using pencils and paint but a wide range of mediums. The emphasis was for children from all capabilities to feel that they can create all types of art and build their confidence in this subject.

The scheme is designed to be progressive so children's learning builds over time. Children in Year 2 produce 2D wire bird sculptures. This is revisited in Year 4 where children make 3D bird sculptures. The scheme is designed to encourage children to become artists and express their view and belief about what art is and therefore marking is not present within art books however children receive feedback and guidance during the learning sequences. These books are their own and they produce their own representation and interpretation of a subject covered. The art outcomes are really strong and children talk positively about their experience of art.

School Reports

Mr Johnson moved on to discussing a change of school reports. Currently, the average school report takes 55 minutes to produce. This roughly equates to 100 school days being used to write reports. The parents were shown the difference between the reports that are being proposed which could save at least 30/40 per minutes per report by taking away huge amounts of the work involved. The parents welcomed the change as long as the challenges for the children were not a grey area. It was explained to parents that within the covering letter for the reports it would be explained that if parents wanted more information they would be welcome to receive additional information.

Classroom comments

Diamond class parents asked why there are only workshops for Year 1 and no outdoor trips. It was explained that any trip that requires a coach means that the cost of a trip becomes very expensive. With the cost of living as it is we, as a school, do not want to expect parents to have to try and pay large amounts, especially when some need to pay for multiple trips when they have more than one child in our school.

Excellence Assembly

It was requested that parents are advised earlier when it comes to being notified about their child receiving an Excellence Certificate on a Friday. We will try to advise parents by noon if possible. It was explained to the parents that Mrs Monksfield relies on the teachers to email her with details in a timely matter to achieve this. Mrs Monksfield to monitor this over the next few weeks.

Videoing of workshops

Please could any workshops be videoed in the future so that all parents can view them. Unfortunately, not all parents can attend during the school day due to work commitments. Mr Johnson agreed that this will be something that will be looked at in the future where possible. Unfortunately, some workshops are practical and hands on and therefore can not be recorded and shared.

Lunchtimes

Assurance was provided to the parents that children are not rushed to eat their dinners at lunchtimes. The lunches are one hour long for each pupil and unfortunately it seems to generally be time pressure implemented by friends rushing each other to eat so that they can go outside for longer or play football. Midday Supervisors just try to ensure that the children have eaten enough of their lunches for maximum concentration for the afternoon.

Sibling Photograph session

Unfortunately we cannot accommodate a sibling drop in session for photographs. Prior to Covid 19 we did offer this to parents but it was found that parents would continue to queue even in to the start of the school day refusing to leave until the photograph had been taken. This resulted in delays to the classroom teaching.

The meeting was brought to a close at 3pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday 19th May 2023.