



Parent Council Minutes – 20/5/2022

Mrs Holman advised parents that Mr Johnson was joining the meeting today to explain the Curriculum at Loose and across our trust.

Parent Workshops - Firstly, Mrs Holman wanted to address the recent feedback from parents requesting evening workshops for updates etc from school. Mrs Dutch had arranged for a representative from the adult education department to come to school and meet with parents regarding any questions they may have regarding the transition between leaving primary school and moving on to secondary schools. Unfortunately this did not go ahead as only 4 parents expressed an interest at the time. We have to ask the question of should we try to arrange these extra outside hours workshops or when would the best time be for most parents to attend. Another workshop was arranged in the evening with Mr Johnson and only 6 parents attended even though over 80 had expressed an interest in attending.

Curriculum - Mr Johnson spoke through the curriculum focus currently underway at Loose on developing a knowledge rich curriculum. SJ spoke through the different types of knowledge that form the curriculum we deliver here and spoke through the way we structure the curriculum that children's knowledge builds from novice to expert. We spoke through different examples of this process to explain how it works and why we work in this way. We looked at a completed Jenga block vs an incomplete one and how we want our curriculum to be like the completed block where each previous layer supports and adds strength to the next layer. We also looked at other pictorial representations of curriculum building including looking at The Simpsons vs Games of Thrones and a developing picture over time. Finally, SJ explained what resources we may use in school to ensure we can provide this for the children here at Loose.

Feedback from recent parent surveys – parent views – how can we improve as a school?

The next stage of the meeting touched on what does the perfect homework look like? Parents have varying views on what homework should be provided if any at all. Views ranged from what we offer now to daily homework for English and maths. Tutors were suggesting this in some cases. We agreed that homework to continue as it is currently, following guidance but with parents in Y5 and 6 particularly able to request further projects / similar if they wish to have this support for learning at home. Mrs Holman expressed that parents can request homework in any year from the class teacher.

Communication was also raised by the group and how best to do this. It was expressed that it is still worth writing in the child's Learning Journal but noted that it is generally looked at more in KS1 classes than KS2. A reminder to go out in year group letters each term as this is slightly different as

children get older and more independent, with adults not checking them daily and reading often happening in groups not on an individual basis. Anything worrying the parent that needs to be discussed with the teacher can be raised at the gate and not to wait until parents evening. Parents explained that it is harder to catch the teacher now that parents are not allowed on site so long since coming back to school after the Covid 19 period. SH explained that gates are shut on time for a Safeguarding reason and that we have other after school clubs children out in the playgrounds and previously parents would like to chat and hang around on school grounds. Parents can always arrange to make an appointment with the class teachers if they feel it is necessary to raise any issues. We, as a school will continue to ensure teachers are available after school each day and parents must approach teachers or ask for an appointment if they wish to speak with one. We will ensure that teachers and TAs try to share more with parents just in this informal way after school as it is a great way to feel involved and included in your child's learning at school.

Other items raised...

Clubs - The subject of clubs for KS1 and younger pupils was raised but SH explained that our younger children often find attending a club after school too tiring and experience has shown that clubs are better received with KS2 children. The clubs on offer in KS2 are good and can be looked forward to by younger pupils.

School dinners – PTA parents were reminded that they can contact Mrs Dutch if they would like to attend a lunchtime sitting with the children to taste the school dinners at any time. Suggestions was to have a parent lunchtime but this would be too many to accommodate / organise.

Swimming lessons will be returning back to pupils in years 2 and 3 in September.

Reading books – Literacy leader to send out information regarding books and rewards so all classes are clear on this.

Trips are being planned and have happened again this term. All year groups will go to one or have a visitor to enhance the curriculum. The leader for this (Mr Hogwood) is looking at this over time to ensure a range of experiences are on offer for children. We do need to receive enough funds for trips to go ahead or they may be cancelled. We send many reminders to parents about this and appreciate parents completing payment and forms in good time so we can make necessary arrangements.

Supply teachers – we do use supply teachers to cover sickness and staff absence. Also trust and school planning sessions. A year group TA will be present where possible and planning is completed by the class teacher or year group team.

Gate timings – reminders have gone on newsletters. This is for safeguarding purposes with clubs outside after school and before school.

SRE - The children have been covering relationships, drugs etc in their PSHE lessons. It is assumed this will be in year 6 but will notice will be given before any sex education takes place? I believe this is so parents can have the talk with their children themselves before this happens. Contact will be made regarding sex education taking place yes. Parents receive a letter for specific learning in Y5 and 6 regarding puberty and relationships but SRE is covered in all year groups. Please ask your class

teacher if you would like specific information or look on the website if this is easier for coverage in each year group.

School disco - why has it been changed from all year groups to the older ones now. It's seems a shame especially as the younger ones love to dance and have not had any trips or discos since starting school – there have only been 2 discos this year. Hopefully this will be back to normal next academic year. Was important junior children had their discos before they leave us after 2 years without.

Reading, I'm not sure anyone is reading with all children. One of the children is saying she hasn't read to anyone this year so far (it could just be her saying that though!) and she has been on the same book band since the end of her last year – please do talk to teachers about these kinds of queries as soon as you think of them so they can be rectified. Older children or stronger readers do not read everyday to an adult.

Some of the parents have written in their child's learning journals about reading and not changing book bands/books and wanting more books on bug club but nothing has changed. Are the learning journals checked or should parents email instead?

Twitter pics, our class do not seem to have any on there, unless I'm missing them! We continually try to get good coverage. We will remind teachers and leaders to share the amazing things going on as much as we can.

Spellings, why does a small selection of children have different spellings, majority of the class seem to have the "easy" ones, but some other children are getting different more difficult spellings - I guess I just wondered why this was please? Teachers sometimes group homework in this way to suit different abilities. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you want a specific answer for your child or class.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 8 July 2022 2.30pm to 3pm in the Staff Room.