



Parent Council Minutes – 9/7/2021

Welcome and thank you for attending our last meeting of the year.

Mrs Holman started by saying a big thank you to the parents for their assistance and help with being part of the parent council for the last year. They have been excellent helping us make decisions regarding the Covid pandemic and should they wish to be part of this again next year, please do vote if there is nobody else showing any interest.

Agenda

The parents were informed that Mrs Dutch had met with the local Parish Council regarding parking issues around the school and congestion. She explained to the council that we had worried about the general traffic and congestion it is causing at both start and after school for many years. The members were pleased that we had the children from Eco Council patrolling some mornings and reminders to parents were sent out on Twitter and in newsletters. We work closely with the PCSO who sometimes patrols also. We have had a number of near misses and this is a worry. Mrs Dutch expressed a wish for more yellow lines around school and that we would love a 20mph speed limit. It was felt that this would be difficult on the main Loose Road but they took our requests away with them. The council thanked the school for being so productive and trying so many things to improve the situation.

School Improvement

We have looked at the recent parent, staff, pupil and year 6 surveys to consider what we can do to improve on areas around and in school. It was a chance to also celebrate what has gone well and what good work has continued this year. The children have been very resilient and parents have been great during the rollercoaster of a year that Covid restrictions have thrown our way. We will continue to focus on the wellbeing of staff and children and mental health as a priority. The Nurture group, 'Hive', is a group led by Mrs Bremerkamp which has proved very successful and will continue to develop and improve next year in a new room with spaces for up to 12 children at any time. Knowledge is being looked at currently and learning how children learn more and remember more. We will also be concentrating on individual subjects and asking ourselves is our sport or music brilliant at Loose. Where can we improve and what do we already do well. We are prioritising areas to become rich in knowledge and offer excellent professional development for our teachers and teaching assistants.

Covid Catchup - Any monies that we have left and any new monies received will be used next year with our biggest focus being for years 2, 3 and 4.

The main part of the meeting was then focused on the questions asked within our recent survey. It was put to the council that certain areas asked of parents always score lower (whatever we

changed) and we would like to see what we can do to improve in these areas. Comments were welcomed from the members.

Suggestions from council members to change the way questions were worded. Rather than a Yes or No answer to questions, a comments box would be good. Understood these are ofsted based questions but many are difficult to answer. Need a cannot comment option as last year for some questions eg extended services if you had never used it.

Parents felt that they would like to receive more information on how their children are doing in class. Some teachers are better than others at this and parents feel they get all the information they need. Parent Council felt this was not about assessment data information but just fairly regular catch ups and communication, notes home, etc. Mrs Holman explained that we would consider ways to promote / allow teacher time to do this (as when for 32 chn in a class at 5 or 10 mins each it all adds up). Agree we want parents to feel involved in school life and that this has been more difficult this year. Legally schools have to provide a written report once a year to parents and 2 opportunities to discuss learning with their teacher. At Loose these are parent evenings but we would want more than the minimum expectation ideally. We usually invite parents in to school to look at their children's work on our open afternoons. Obviously this latter part has been difficult due to Covid 19. Parents felt that the lack of time at the gate / playground with a teacher has been missed, especially with younger children in school. We are looking to get the communication right between parents and school and therefore any further comments or ideas would be welcomed.

Homework

The government expect this has to be offered to all children. The requirements are none at the age of 4, five minutes from age 5 and then simply add five minutes to the time as the child moves up a year. We would not expect more than 30 mins a day and often we supplement set tasks with reading, spellings, TTRockstars, etc. Homework is also necessary for an introduction to secondary school for our year 6 children as they will be expected to have daily homework when they move on further in their education. Homework is age appropriate and also a good way of checking pupil understanding and so parents know a little of what their children are learning in school.

Questions from parents

When asked if parents of year 6 children could attend leaving school assemblies the answer was yes but the only way we could consider parents coming to school was outside and one class at a time. Info will be sent if guidance is lifted.

Year 6 Colour Run is still going ahead. Please remember their white t-shirt for the event. Children were involved in decisions regarding end of term arrangements for Y6 activities. Children had voted for bubble football, colour run, disco and much more. They had not chosen the staff v pupils rounders match this year.

Year 6 disco is still dependant on Covid rules that will be announced on 19th July by Boris Johnson but hopefully this will be good news.

Timings for Sept – Drop off and collection - Details of what will be expected in the new term for children coming to school and leaving at the end of the day will be announced in the newsletter or as a separate communication. Very similar to what we are offering now.

Learner of the Week assemblies – parents will not be invited initially. This may change once cases are reducing as at the moment so many staff are isolating we need to keep visitors in school to a minimum. Not every child will necessarily receive a certificate as praise given in other ways, children have sporting rewards, housepoints, letters home. Certificates are just one of our rewards on offer.

After school clubs will be making a charge of approximately £3 from next term. This has been included on a previous newsletter. Parents agreed this was a suitable and fair request.

Parents commented that some parents reported that they didn't like the photos again this year. Mrs Holman explained that it is difficult to get right and we have used different companies over the years to try to please more parents. It is necessary to remember this is a school photograph and not a studio based picture but we do want most parents to be happy with them. They of course should not purchase if unhappy with it as this in itself is feedback to the company. We have tried a few companies and found Kittle to be very efficient but we would consider feedback when making a booking next year. The background will be looked at to see if there is a more preferred option. Details to be provided to Parent Council at next meeting.

Mrs Holman also put to the current year 5 parents that next year for year 6 it might be a good idea if they would like to arrange their own leaving event. Other parents had mentioned this (like a party) that they would like to arrange themselves so parents / families could attend and say farewell. School arrange many things in the school day and we hope the residential to be able to go ahead next year too and are not planning an evening event. Current feedback from Y6 children said they had enjoyed the choices they had made for fun end of school things (Bowl, bubble football, sports, colour run, etc). Query from Y5 parent - If parents wanted to use the school hall etc they could do so for token payment and this would be a private letting arrangement. Reminder that they cannot use public spaces like the valley or play area opposite school unless booked with parish council / LAA.

Thanks again to all parents for being wonderful reps and sharing so much useful feedback to help communication between home and school. Have a lovely summer holiday.