



Parent Council Minutes – 08/10/2021

Welcome and thank you for attending. Terms of reference signed / agreed by new Parent Councillors.

School Priorities

Discussed our priorities – develop a knowledge –rich curriculum and how professional development for staff would support these changes. To view our priorities click here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Improvement&pid=107> We are very excited at our constantly evolving curriculum offer for all pupils here at Loose.

School photographs

Mrs Holman explained recent issues we had experienced with Kittle Photography and the reasons why we suggested using an alternative company. First of all she asked for a show of hands of who would still like photographs being taken in school. The vote was for pictures to still be taken but using an alternative company. Mrs Monksfield has approached a company called 'Fizz' who are due to be used by Coxheath Primary School as well.

The parents viewed the previous Year 6 photograph which was taken in 2019, pre covid restrictions which was very natural on a stage and it was explained that the last year 6 picture was taken using green screen background. It was agreed that there would not be a whole year 6 photo this year but instead we would arrange for a class photograph for each class in year 6 together with individuals in June/July 2022, with a white background. Dates have been booked for years R to year 5 in November 2021.

Action – MT to add this to newsletter so Y6 parents are aware of decision made.

Newsletter

We are now using a different format for the school Newsletter (Sway). There was a mixed reaction, some thought it was too long and suggestions were made for 'Upcoming Dates' to be brought nearer the top so parents can look at these first. Also they would welcome a picture of the Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher to the top of their written news.

Action – MT to add staff photos in to newsletter

Parents in School

Due to Government restrictions we are only allowing parents wherever possible on to the school premises in a measured and controlled way to keep risks low. So far class assemblies have been made possible together with 'Meet the teacher' also parent evenings will very much run as previously which we are delighted about. We received just 6 members of the local Care Home at the recent Harvest Festival assembly and allowed parents to come on to KS1 playground for the little ones in KS1. Some parents have commented that other schools are allowing parents to visit their schools on a larger scale but you cannot compare each school with each other as there are different circumstances for their reasoning. We have seen an increase in Covid – 19 cases and so we are being careful and trying to reduce risks wherever possible. Each situation is reviewed on a regular basis each term. We hope to allow the Christmas church service to go ahead so parents can attend. See our current RA and guidance docs here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=COVID&pid=211>

Gates

Mrs Holman explained that Waldron Drive gate needs to be busier ideally as the split between the 4 gates is not equal and this causes more congestion, especially in Lancet Lane. Lancet Lane and the main two other gates are still proving busy but most parents feel that children are used to this and happy with how they come in to school and are collected at the end of the day. A parent raised the point that Lancet Lane had not been manned on occasions.

Action – SLT to ensure person on duty stays on gate whilst on LL (not coming onto playground).

FURTHER ISSUES RAISED BY PARENTS / QUERIES

Google Classroom isn't always up to date if children need to isolate and learn from home. Some do have lots of learning on there, some classes not.

Action – class teachers and AHT to check this for all classes.

Google Classroom is predominantly now for children who are self-isolating and for any homework.

Action – CC to send reminder to parents re Google Classrooms / how to use.

Toilet breaks are allowed during the lesson however children should be reminded by their teacher that breaks and lunchtimes must be used for this facility. Children that use iRock may miss out on their break and snacktimes. These music lessons are privately arranged with the parent and it is the parent that chooses this. Any problems must be taken up directly with iRock by the parent. Pupils can have their snacks when returning to class.

Action – teachers to remind pupils to have snack if needed when they return / use toilet

It was raised that children are not allowed their **water bottles at lunchtimes**. It was explained that all children have a water facility in the hall. Water is readily available in cups and jugs for school dinners and if children have a lunch box they can also ask for water if they do not have a bottle as part of their lunch brought from home. Lunchtime is 1 hour long so there is plenty of time to have some water. It was also confirmed that the dinner staff ensure that children raise their hands prior to eating their dessert to ensure they are eating their food properly and have had enough. MDS try to encourage the children as best they can to have a few mouthfuls and invariably the children are happy to eat some more. If a child was not eating their lunch we would send a message home / let parents know.

Can children be sent home in their **PE kit** or alternatively come to school already dressed in PE kit if they have PE on the day? This is not allowed or encouraged as children then forget their kit / leave it at home. We do find that girls tend to wear shorts under their skirts which is fine and then they are partly prepared for their lesson or club after school. Should you prefer your child in year 6 (or any aged child feeling self-conscious) to change separately then please write in and advise the teacher.

Parents can come in a look for any **lost property** after school. It was advised that the lost property boxes are checked every other day if not daily and any named uniform is sent directly to class. Please could all parents ensure their child's uniform is clearly named. If uniform is also purchased from the PTA uniform shop, could they ensure the previous name has been crossed out.

Parent Workshops - If parents miss a workshop can the slides be shared? Is there to be a YR session?

Action - Any phonics workshop power points on website to go to parents who could not make the workshops – MT. HO to plan a YR session for parents.

Swimming is being arranged at present for year groups who missed out on their learning during the pandemic /lockdowns. It is important that children can leave school being able to swim 25 metres as this is part of the school curriculum and government requirements. At present Y3 and Y4 children are swimming.

Homework has been raised that sometimes it seems too much or not enough. Mrs Holman said that there is no set amount for homework and we plan to go back to basics for homework, tables, spelling, reading and projects for children wanting an extended piece of work to do at home. A letter is due this week from Mr Johnson regarding homework changes to keep things focussed on priorities (eg spelling, maths and reading) and simple to cause less stress for families at home.

A good first meeting with many things covered that were raised with reps prior to the meeting – reminder this is the purpose of the council, the link between leaders and parents so we can try to get things right.

Worried about your child?

Reminder - any parent who wishes to speak with a teacher can always call / email the school office to arrange an appointment. Teachers or TAs are happy to arrange a meeting or phone call so things can be discussed and solved quickly.

Next meeting scheduled for 10th December 2021.

Depending on Government rulings we are hopeful this will again be in the Staff Room.