



## Parent Council Minutes – 10/12/2021

Welcome and thank you for attending.

Mrs Holman started by saying that we will be switching to Teams for the next meeting if we cannot hold in school, which will be in February 2022.

**Matters from the last meeting** – Phonics and Cursive writing were previously mentioned. All year groups have been addressing these subjects and all areas should have been clarified for parents. **Letters previously sent out by Hayley Oliveri to be sent out again please** as some parents felt they had not received these. Sarah advised that they next Parents Council Meeting will solely be on the subject of Reading and for the English team of leaders to be invited along.

**Parent Council Members reviewed the terms of reference** for being part of the Parent council and reminded them that the main purpose of the council was to gain a shared voice regarding school improvement matters. Many points brought to the meeting should have been asked between parent and the class teacher. Unfair to pass some on to the parent council reps as so many queries that could be quickly sorted via the normal channels of communication between teacher and parent. Examples of questions were as follows:

‘The spellings for year 2 aren’t always online (the website), please could they be out there for when children forget planners’

‘Are pupils expected to choose their own reading books? Sometimes they come home with inappropriate books for their ability /level’

Another was about the year 4 toilets being dirty and vegetarian food choices at a club.

These were just a few examples but a lot of the questions raised would have been ideally resolved by speaking with the teacher first and so matters can be addressed more quickly. See attached ToR as a reminder of purpose of the group.

**School Improvement** - Parent council were asked for any comments regarding children’s feedback on receiving lessons in History, Geography and Science. These subjects have all been a focus on this term and we wanted to know if the children had been impressed with the subjects. Unfortunately we did not receive any comments on this matter.

**Twitter** – some classes not represented as often as others. Staff to be reminded to send photos for adding where children are engaging in their day to day activities. Parents stated they really like to see this. A reminder that parents can come and view their children’s books and work any time outside of parents evenings and this is important at the moment where we cannot have large-scale invites to come into school. We remind parents on newsletters frequently and encourage parents to talk to the teacher to arrange this or contact Brook or Orchard email addresses to arrange an appointment. **\*\*\*\*Please reiterate again on Newsletter in the New Year \*\*\***

**Development days** had previously been a subject to discuss. The days/dates have already been decided by the Trust for our schools and are in line with Kent term dates to match as many other schools as possible. As a primary school it is always difficult to try and arrange for dates to coincide with secondary schools as they are all quite different for half terms.

**School Photographs** - school photographs being taken in a class traditional format was chosen by the previous parent council as their preferred option. This was mentioned in view of some comments requesting the old free style poses format.

Sibling photographs have previously been offered as a 7.30am sitting which will be reviewed and looked at again to see if we can offer this session again in the future. Obviously, through Covid restrictions these could not be offered this year. With 655 children in the school there are a lot of siblings. At present the photographers are booked for two mornings in the week to take all individual and class pictures.

Fizz photography have advised the school that any ordered photographs will be sent to us before we break up for Christmas – **Penny Monksfield to chase**. Parents were pleased with the photos overall and the council pleased to have been instrumental in choosing this company.

**Newsletter** -The School Office Manager has looked in to trying to create a link on a Contents page for you to click on and take you to that page of the Newsletter. Unfortunately, the system, Sway, does not have this facility but we will continue to try to keep the letter short and under clear headings so you can navigate it easily.

**Extended Services** - Any comments, once again, regarding the snacks or times offered by Breakfast or After School club should firstly be directed and discussed with a member of each team. All schools within Coppice Primary Partnership do not at present offer staggered prices for After School club.

**Football boots** were raised as a point by a couple of parents. School have approximately 50 pairs of football boots within school in all children's sizes. Your child can always use one of these pairs and if they would like to borrow them on a term basis and keep them clean at home, or just borrow for a lesson. They do not need to be purchased if parents prefer not to. Mouth guards can be remoulded if necessary as teeth change but are not necessary for in school lessons. Mouth guards are a requirement for sports clubs after school such as Hockey.

**Road crossing times** – Sarah Holman has spoken with Chris the lollipop man and changed the times from 3pm until 4pm to allow parents to walk from Lancet Lane entrance and still use the crossing.

**Homework** – Although we have reviewed the subject of Homework recently, if a parent feels that their child needs to work or support on areas within a specific subject then they can always request work from the class teacher or talk to them about how to help their child at home.

**School Trips and events** – We are always looking for our children to attend trips and visits however, unfortunately this is dependent on the latest regulations with Covid 19. We cannot therefore state whether the year 6 trip will definitely go ahead or not although of course we very much hope it will go ahead. We will try to give as much notice as we can for events (eg carols were only 1 week) so parents can attend where possible.

**Covid – being cold in class** – we are trying our best, using the new CO2 metres, to balance a good temperature with fresh airflow in rooms. Please do be reminded that we recommend vests or warm clothing to be worn so we can be safe during winter months.

**Wet after play** – some children did get wet after a downpour last week that was unexpected and were offered to change into their PE kits if they preferred to. We do not have playtimes if it is too wet but if light rain we do have play outside to get fresh air and a run around. Please ensure your child always has a waterproof warm coat.

**Behaviour ladder** – please speak to your child’s teacher if you wish to know specific information regarding your child. We always celebrate where children reach the top of the ladder. This is part of our behaviour policy which is followed in all 3 schools in our trust.

Thank you to all for attending and we hope the main focus for the next meeting can be a shared discussion about our school improvement item of reading rather than lots of queries being addressed so we can really learn from each other about what we (staff and parents) want for our children in the teaching and learning of reading at Loose.

Have a lovely Christmas when it gets here!

**Next meeting scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

**Please ensure any comments regarding the subject of Reading are to be sent to the school office before Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.**