

## **PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

25/9/19

**In attendance:** TP/AW/LB (TM) + 8 PARENTS

### **AGENDA:**

- After-school clubs
- Freedom Friday
- School Christmas performances (P)
- Governance: Governor led (P)

*\*P - Parent volunteered agenda item*

### **After-school clubs survey:**

TP indicated it was school's intention to survey parents regarding wrap-around care. As a preliminary to this, initial thoughts were gathered as follows:

- Parents would like more clubs similar to those clubs run previously, such as sports, art, craft, cookery, film, multi-skills, etc.
- They liked the idea of linking clubs to upcoming sports events.
- They wanted a range of clubs for both KS1 and KS2 (rather than one or the other)
- Cost was discussed: it was felt if these were too excessive that it would discriminate against those children with siblings (because of the expense) - Magic Maths Club was cited as an example.
- Parents may be prepared to pay £2-3.00 per session (they understand that certain costs would have to be covered, e.g. cost of materials, ingredients, etc.)
- They were keen to have holiday clubs and, as discussed at a previous PC meeting, advanced notice given.

### **Evaluation of 'Freedom Friday':**

Parents were asked their opinion on FF. Staff stated that some children had been bringing excessive amounts of snacks and sweets on these days. Parent opinion was as follows:

- "Not a good idea"
- ...Blurring the lines - healthy other days/ not healthy others
- Some felt that the biscuit sold on a Friday should be left.

TP suggested some relaxation of the healthy eating policy, perhaps on last day of each term, as an option. Notification to parents that FF will stop.

### **School Plays (Parent agenda item):**

- Some parents were unhappy that Christmas performances were scheduled for during the school day, where previously there was one evening performance offered. The difficulty of taking time off, at this time, was cited as the problem.
- It was noted that during last year's performances, children were excessively tired (particularly the younger children) and some children did not turn up for evening performances, which presented logistical difficulties in its execution. Some parents indicated that this may have been down to the nature of the performance (i.e. a slot per class, so parents were having to sit through a whole school performance, rather than just their child's input)
- LB indicated that having performance in the day only was commonplace in many local schools and that the proposed schedule was taking account of the well-being of the children, particularly our younger school members.
- TP suggested that it may be possible to do a performance directly after school rather than the 2.30pm time suggested.
- Parents said that they would like the school to replicate the provision last year made for Grandparents (Grandparents were allowed to attend the dress rehearsal)
- One parent asked if it were possible to have individual photos of the children in costume that the parents could have for a small fee (to cover cost) as they were not allowed to film during the performance. This could be looked into, as a possibility.

### **Governance:**

EL/AM (Governors) indicated that they would be doing a short questionnaire to parents to feed into future governance planning. Initial thoughts were volunteered as follows:

Parents felt the new Head appointment was a good one.

**Communication** was raised as an issue at times, as follows:

- Incorrect dates on letters (e.g. *day* sometimes did not tally with *date*)
- Cancellation of Clubs: one parent asked if *both* parents be notified in case the (main) parent had not picked up the message.
- Parents indicated they liked the 'year ahead' calendar

### **Homework:**

- Homework on website - not there. Suggested some communication regarding what each child should be doing for homework every week (Parent open morning?)
- One parent would like more homework (others would not).
- One parent would like to know what they are doing every week so they could work with their child at home. It was suggested that related websites could be put on the website (related to topics).
- AS suggested a series of homework challenges for those children/ parents who wanted extra homework, that the child could choose from, similar to her school.

**Website:**

- Parents expressed some difficulty in navigating themselves around the school website. They indicated some anomalies with the various 'tabs' on the site. Parent (web designer) offered some assistance with this (indicated had spoken to TP)
- One parent indicated that the old website sometimes comes up: this has been resolved now it is believed.

Meeting close: 4.25pm