

# PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

6/2/20

In attendance: TP/AW/LB/ RS + 4 PARENTS

## AGENDA:

- Review of actions from previous meeting
- Feedback from Christmas performances
- Governance: Governor led (P)

*\*P - Parent volunteered agenda item*

## Item 1: Review of actions:

*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.*

**More clubs now on offer for both KS1 and KS2. Cost as discussed at £3.00 per session.**

**Wrap-around care discussed with parent directed to Severn Centre facility (contact information volunteered)**

**TP said that had been little take-up for sports club in half-term and it had to be cancelled. Parents indicated perhaps more notice required, i.e. Easter Club advertised now.**

**TP indicated that the school endeavours to give two weeks' notice for a trip (although Santa Express was less time as the offer for free tickets did not come through until later)**

**Parent indicated Chester Zoo were giving away zoo tickets and that schools could apply.**

***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.*

**TP indicated that there had been little resistance to removing 'Freedom Friday' and that most children brought healthy tuck into school. In order to achieve healthy school status, TP indicated that we needed to address the issue of unhealthy items in lunchboxes (beyond one small treat).**

**Parent suggested:**

- A weekly item in the newsletter, which included a healthy sandwich box idea.
- Use of healthy eating APP (mention in the newsletter?)

**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)

**No recent issues reported by parents in attendance.**

- 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

TP explained that, whilst most dates were sent out in advance, there would be times when additional dates would be added to the calendar. Parents indicated they liked the text messaging service. There was a suggestion that Facebook might be used more. They liked the photos that appear on Twitter.

**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.

**TP indicated that parents/ carers could access the medium term plan for their child's class, which would show some opportunities for learning outside the classroom, for those parents/ carers who might like to support their child's learning at home.**

**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.

**No reported issues with the website from the parents in attendance. One parent commented that she felt it was user-friendly.**

**Item 2: Feedback from Christmas performances**

**School Plays:**

- 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.*

Afternoon performances of the Christmas plays were well attended. Parents liked the idea that there was more than one 'show' (i.e. was organised in Reception/ KS1/Lower KS2/ Upper KS2 as opposed to one or two shows)

Some parents commented that, provided plenty of notice was given, that the revised arrangements were acceptable. A parent commented that they had heard one or two comments on the playground about there not being an evening performance.

TP commented that none of the issues with respect to children turning up for evening performances were experienced, as they were scheduled in school time. Children were also less tired.

### Item 3: Governance

EL - Parent Governor attended and talked about the need to recruit a parent governor and co-opted governor to the committee. She talked about the commitment and gave an overview of the role. Parents/ carers were to let her know, if interested or knew of someone who may be interested.

Meeting close: 4.20pm