

## **PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

17/05/23

**In attendance:** Mr Plim (TP), Mrs Butler (LB) + 6 parents/carers

### **AGENDA:**

- Actions from previous meeting
- Outdoor Learning
- Enrichment days
- Parent Council meeting School Council
- Healthy breaktime snacks
- Any Other Business

### **Actions from the previous meetings:**

- TP shared that in the previous meeting, parent and pupil questionnaire results were discussed, that new playground rules were introduced following the work of School Council (these were displayed on-screen).
- TP said that attendance rewards were also discussed in the last meeting and one area where there was an action to take forward was to broaden clubs and activities so that there were some clubs for KS1 as well as KS2.
- Parents agreed that there did seem to be a broader range of clubs available targeting younger children as well as those in KS2.
- Although a range of clubs had been offered, the uptake for clubs had not been as strong as had initially hoped (TP showed a table displaying the capacity for each club and the numbers of children actually booked on). Apart from Forest School and Art Club, numbers were low even though clubs were either free or a nominal cost of £1 per session.

### **Outdoor Learning**

- TP said that next academic year, the school would be engaging in the OPAL project (Outdoor Play and Learning) and briefly summarised what the focus of this was, namely that children spend 20% of their time at school at break/lunch so there was an opportunity to increase the opportunities for play as learning.
- LB said that School Council were talking with their classes and asking their peers for ideas to improve activities available at lunchtime with a view to zoning the field after half term.

## Enrichment days

- TP said that enrichment days were really important to help raise children's aspirations and show them that there is a wider world out there.
- LB shared a list of different enrichment days from School Council and explained that these were their ideas for themes, and asked Parent Council whether there were any that would lend themselves to parents attending?
- A parent said that they liked the idea of coming into school to share a book with their child on the field (LB said that one suggestion had been taking children to have a picnic and do something similar at the Country Park).
- Another parent said that at different school, they organise a day every half term where they focus on a different country; inviting speakers into school and even having food available associated with that country. This way, it broadens children's horizons and exposes them to other cultures.
- LB said that next week, the Year 6s are going on a trip to Worcester University to have a tour of the campus and look at the lecture theatres etc. to inspire them to aim high. LB added that previously, Year 6s have had the Police Cadets programme as a way of encouraging them to think about different careers for when they are older.
- One parent said that using children's own experiences was really important and there was discussion around musical enrichment e.g. Shropshire Music Service coming into school to 'showcase' what they do.
- TP said that next academic year, school would be starting OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) which has the premise of treating lunchtime as a learning opportunity but through play. There would need to be parent representatives as part of the working group looking at this.

## Parent Council meeting School Council

- TP said that one idea going forward would be Parent Council meeting School Council. LB suggested that next half term, there was an opportunity for the two councils to meet and they could start thinking about what the focus would be.

## Healthy breaktime snacks

- TP said that guidance around breaktime snacks has been that children can bring a piece of fruit, a yoghurt or a cheese snack. However, there were other snacks creeping back in such as crisps.
- There was discussion around items like fridge raiders however, the salt content was raised as a concern. Nut allergies were also discussed and whilst at the moment, there are no identified children with a nut allergy, this could change in September.

- LB said that school have already had the school nurse into school to talk to the children about healthy eating.
- One parent suggested that one of the enrichment activities could be for children to make a healthy snack and invite parents in to try it (or make it with them). Another parent suggested trying different types of cheese.
- Another parent said that at Oldbury Wells, part of food technology was to teach children how to cut/make a fruit salad and doing a DT project with parents might have a positive impact on the types of snacks children are bringing into school.
- LB said that it is difficult to stop squash coming in in water bottles as some parents share that children do not drink water and squash is all they drink. There was discussion around these being accessed outside of the classroom to reduce the risk of sticky liquid being spilt onto workbooks etc.
- Points were raised by parents about the pressure of sending in cakes or sweets when it is their child's birthday - this can be difficult at the moment with the cost of living and it also sends the wrong message around healthy eating.
- One parent suggested as an alternative, children could donate a book to the library which could be labelled with the child's name and a special 'birthday sticker' so that anybody picking it up would know it has been donated by a child for their birthday.

### **Any Other Business**

- There was no any other business brought to the meeting.

Meeting close: 4:05pm