

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

04/10/23

In attendance: Mr Plim (TP), Mrs Butler (LB), Mrs Williams (AW), Vicki Kelly (VK) + 4 parents/carers

AGENDA:

- Actions from previous meeting
- Healthy Eating
- Behaviour/Rewards
- Highley 100+

Actions from the previous meetings:

- TP shared that following the previous meeting, ideas for Healthy Eating were taken forward and two year groups, as part of a D&T enrichment day with parents, did focus on making healthy snacks.
- On the subject of healthy eating, LB also shared some of the initiatives currently planned for this year, including the 'Brilliant Brushers' scheme as Highley has been identified as one of the areas in Shropshire with the highest levels of tooth decay. Reception were also just drinking water.
- LB added that school are aware that vaping within the community and also nationally is a growing issue for young people and part of the work children will undergo this year is to make children aware of the dangers.
- One parent talked about reinforcing not taking sweets from strangers and peer pressure was also talked about.

Healthy Eating/Healthy Lifestyles

- Parents spoke about how difficult it can be to meet children's differing food preferences/choices. A parent asked about broadening the meal options available in the dinner hall.
- There was some discussion around the range of vegetables on offer and that previously, schools (including Highley) had had a focus on trying vegetables in different formats (e.g. carrot cake, beetroot within a brownie) so that children don't realise they are eating vegetables.
- One parent said that gravy being automatically added to their child's meal can put the children off eating school dinners. Asked about making it more appealing to the children?
- **Parent lunches** were discussed as a way of inviting parents into school to give school dinners a higher profile. TP said that this does happen for Reception parents when children start school but that it had not happened for other year groups since before covid.

Behaviour/Rewards

- TP shared that on a recent visit to school by the school's School Improvement Advisor and also on informal walks around school, children's learning behaviour was positive.
- AW talked about the Behaviour Hubs programme and that school will be working with a lead school. AW also spoke about the 'calm classroom' provision in place at lunchtime to provide a structure to lunchtime for those children that find unstructured time at lunchtime difficult to manage.
- AW added that school have employed a behaviour support TA (Mr Hall) who has worked at Oldbury Wells and supported in the consequence room. AW said that at school, a similar consequence/reflection room was also running when necessary supervised by SLT.
- There was discussion around the communication between Lunchtime Carers, teaching assistants etc. when incidents take place.
- LB briefly explained the Good To Be Green system and welcomed ideas for ideas outside of the scope of this.
- One parent queried rewards and asked about Star Of The Week, that children sometimes think they have done enough to earn it, and then feel deflated when it is somebody else; this adds to anxiety around whether they are Star Of The Week or not.
- Staff explained that there are many other rewards in place at school, daily, half-termly, termly and annually.
- AW said that staff constantly use praise, sending children who have completed positive pieces of work to other members of staff.
- It was suggested that communication could go out to parents to outline all of the rewards we have in place and the opportunities for children to have responsibilities etc.
- One parent said that it would be beneficial to know which child was Star Of The Week.
- LB suggested an update to the behaviour policy so that it reflected everything that is used as a reward across school.
- TP stressed that praise is the number one most effective reward strategy that children respond to. VK concurred, that it adds to the intrinsic feeling of doing well.
- A parent gave an example from the recent poetry drop-in and asked about the use of the Worry Box.
- VK said that staff encourage children to put any worries into the Worry Box or class Worry Monster and in PSHE, there is lots of content around the topic of 'difference'.
- LB added that the PSHE curriculum covers different relationships, stereotypes and discusses 'difference'.

Highley 100+

- TP gave an overview of the publication of the Highley 100+ 'passport to success', that there were many of the activities that children have already completed and the first step would be ticking off what children had already done.
- LB added that School Council had contributed towards the process of developing this set of activities and that staff had been very mindful of keeping the cost of activities low and being inclusive.
- Parents in attendance were positive about the activities that the passport captures and that they helped to reflect the wider curriculum and not just academic subjects.
- LB gave parents a copy of a 'healthy lifestyles' checklist for ideas/input. Parents were asked to look at this and return it to school with any ideas (copy overleaf).

Actions

1. Communication to go out to parents to outline the different rewards in place across school in addition to Star Of The Week and rewards that parents may already be aware of.
2. Behaviour policy to be updated as necessary to reflect the range of rewards in place.
3. Parent Lunches for other year groups/classes to be offered later in the academic year.
4. Healthy living content within the PSHE curriculum to be reviewed.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

- Healthy lunchboxes: information for parents
- Rewards for healthy lunch boxes
- After-school cookery club for children
- Encourage more children to have school lunches: eg. through themed menus
- Education: healthy foods - what the body needs.
- 'Ready, steady, cook' challenge for children: children using healthy ingredients.
- Opportunities for children to try out unfamiliar foods.
- Water readily available in school.
- Healthy snacks provided at school functions.
- Healthy eating home project for children to do alongside parent/ carers.
- Education: Focus on 'healthy drinks' to include sugary drinks and caffeine energy drinks.
- Education: Treats and peer pressure.
- Exercise & activity. Getting parents involved?
- Cycling proficiency (encouraging more children to ride to school).
- Education: exercise and activity.
- 'Healthy' use of electronics and screen time.
- The importance of breakfast: information for parents.
- Education: Vaping: the legal aspects and dangers.
- Education: Healthy Food preparation (DT)
- Importance of sleep and healthy bedtime routines (parents/ children education)
- Encouraging children to drink water rather than squash (*Brilliant Brushes Campaign)
- Anything else?