

Parent Panel Meeting

23 June 2017

The purpose of Parent Panel meetings is for the School to seek advice from Parents and Carers on how we move the school forward.

Items discussed at the June meeting were:

School Meals

Parents asked whether more halal options could be added to the menu. The School is not in a position to offer halal versions of all meals, but the Catering Manager will be adding more fish dishes to the menu in the Autumn term, to increase choice.

A new meal-booking system would be in place for September, which would provide parents with visibility of the menu options whilst booking.

Communication

Parents were asked whether they thought they were receiving enough information from school, and whether this was accessible to them. All agreed that the text/email service from school worked well, and they appreciated reminders the day before events.

Access to the Class Teacher was proving difficult for some parents, particularly those that are at work. PV agreed to look into options for improving communication, and would make Class Teachers' email addresses available.

The attendees discussed recent information evenings and events. There was no consensus about the best time of day to hold these meetings to maximise attendance. It was agreed that, as the school grows, we would aim to run more than one session, at different times of day to suit parents' availability (as we currently do for School productions)

Assessment

PV provided an overview of Assessment in school, and asked for Parent feedback. Parents of Year 2 children were pleased with the School's approach to SATS, where all children were encouraged to do their best but were not put under pressure. Most of the children actually enjoyed the tests!

Parental Inclusion/Engagement

The School welcomes parental involvement, and has been overwhelmed with the incredible support we have received from parents since opening. Learn alongside mornings were viewed very positively, and all assemblies and events have been really well attended and received.

The potential for holding parent events at school was discussed. These would provide an opportunity for those new to the Newton Leys Community to get to know other parents, and could include activities to fund-raise for the school. Mrs Villa was very supportive of this. A potential welcome event for new parents in September was discussed.

Many parents were keen to support School fundraising events but did not have enough time to commit to full involvement in a PFA. It was suggested that a list of proposed events be pulled together, along with what support the School would need from parents for these (i.e. defined “one-off” roles rather than an ongoing commitment). This could allow parents to use their skills e.g. marketing, DIY, artistic talents to help the school.

Parent Panel meetings will continue to be held on a termly basis, but parents and carers were encouraged to raise any concerns as they arise, rather than wait for these meetings.

We are looking to develop links across the wider community, including visits to Lakeview, a working with other local groups such as Leisure Together.

Pastoral Care

The School’s ethos of viewing every child as an individual, and putting nurture first was discussed. All Parents and Carers were very supportive of this

After School Clubs

With 17 new members of staff in September, a wider range of after school clubs would be available. Parents and Carers said that their children enjoyed attending the After School Clubs.

Uniform

Parents supported the School’s strict approach to uniform, such as the uniform sun hats. Mrs Villa thanked parents for continuing to ensure that their children were so smartly dressed in their uniforms

School Trips

Mrs Villa explained that the School is trying to balance the desire to give the children a wide range of opportunities for trips and visits vs. managing the cost for parents. The current plan is that every child will be offered two trips per academic year, one with their class, and one with the whole school. We will issue a calendar of trips with the approximate costings. Where possible the school will make use of the local area to provide curriculum enhancing opportunities free of charge.

In the longer term, the School hopes to purchase a minibus, to increase opportunities for outings and reduce costs for parents.

It is hoped that we will be able to offer residential opportunities for the older children, either as on-site overnight “camps” or further afield. Should an offsite trip be proposed, a parent information meeting will be held to provide further information before asking for commitment from parents.