

Parent Panel Meeting

13 July 2018

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 July meeting were:

PE Kit

The idea of children arriving in school in their PE kit on their PE days was discussed. Mrs Villa explained that a number of local schools have adopted this approach. It would help with storage issues in class, reduce the amount of lost uniform, avoid the need to segregate classes for changing, and mean that Early Years children could spend more time doing sporting activities. Parents were supportive of this approach and it was agreed that a note would be sent to all parents outlining the change for September.

Year 6 Uniform

Following previous discussions with parents and governors, it had been decided to introduce a shirt and tie for Year 6 children. Parents supported this change. The current Year 5 children are fundraising to cover the cost of their ties. Mrs Villa will send a formal communication to parents about the change.

Communication with Parents about the Curriculum

Parents were asked whether they thought they were receiving enough information about what their child was learning at school. The consensus was “yes”, and that the learn-alongsides were very valuable for this. There was a request for more information about the expected levels of children in particular year groups.

School Trips

The proposed annual programme for trips has now been published on the school website. Parents felt that the range of trips was good, and the financial costs were manageable. They appreciate the opportunities that the children are given to explore the local development, for example, through trips to the park and lake which have no cost to parents.

The School asks parents to provide packed lunches for all children when they go on day trips. This allows parents the opportunity to provide a “special lunch” which their child will really enjoy. Providing school packed lunches for a full year group would be logistically difficult, and the lunches provided would have to be very simple. Parents agreed that providing a packed lunch for a trip was a cost that they were happy to support.

School Dinners

Advice was sought from parents and carers regarding children who do not finish their hot meals. It was agreed that printed slips would be sent home to let parents and carers know that their child had not finished their meal. Families could then review the meal choices made for their children, as necessary. Staff continue to review meal options, to achieve the right balance of healthy and attractive options, and will continue to encourage children to eat the meal that has been selected for them.

It was also agreed that we would hold regular food tasting events for new parents in the summer term, and that parents would be invited to join their children for lunch once a year in the autumn term.

Transition Arrangements

Some negative feedback had been received from a new Nursery parent regarding our transition process. The parent had also posted negative comments on social media.

Parents whose children had been through the transition process were supportive of the school, and the range of opportunities offered for parents and children to visit prior to joining.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to publish details of the transition arrangements on the school's website, to clarify the purpose of different events within the programme.

Early Years Curriculum enrichment

During 2017/18, Nursery parents had been asked to make a voluntary contribution of £10 towards curriculum enrichment. These funds had been used to enhance the ranges of snacks on offer, subsidise educational visits and increase resources within the setting.

Parents supported the idea of continuing with this approach, and also requesting a similar contribution from Reception class parents.

PTA

Different options were discussed for generating interest in setting up a PTA to support the school. Several members of staff and parents are keen to be involved. It was agreed that a coffee morning would be held on 7 September at 8.45am, to welcome new parents and also to discuss arrangements for a fundraising disco. The disco will be held on 21 September at 6pm. Lessons had been learned from the recent family disco about how the event should be arranged!

Future coffee mornings and events will be organised by the PTA.

Communications

Parents asked for more reminders to be sent about events such as parent panel meetings. Mrs Ashpole will be co-ordinating communications from September, and will use a combination of email, website, facebook, twitter and posters to highlight key messages.