



Parent Voice Group (PVG) MEETINGS 2024

Meeting: Thursday 2nd May 7.00pm – 8.00 pm via Zoom

ITEMS	OUTCOMES/ACTIONS/DATES
<p>Attendees: Dawn Sage (DS, Headteacher) Jessica O'Neill and Michelle Duffett (Bumblebee) Katie Blanch and Kate Timmons (Butterfly) Rosanna Piper and Esther Kinnear (Apple Class) Dr Kate Franklin (Pear Class) Karen O'Brien (Palm Class) Laura Briggs (Maple Class) and Kate Ward and Jill Eaton (Sycamore Class) Dr Julia Cioroianu (Willow Class) Becki Sumsion (Elm Class) Aman Hart (Oak Class)</p> <p>Apologies: Dani Taylor (Vice Chair of governors) Mieka Hamman (Willow Class) Mel Bleakley (Oak Class) Nikki Hodgkinson (Horse Chestnut), Yasmin Beaven (Pear Class) Sarah Gilmore (Cherry Class)</p>	
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>DS welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Terms of reference were shared at our last meeting and are on the PVG section of the website.</p> <p>We previously discussed:</p> <p>Ways of gathering feedback. We previously discussed how supportive and helpful WhatsApp can be (albeit mindful of confidentiality and sensitivity too) and discussed encouragement to flag queries directly with the school also. Please contact DS directly by email or drop in to see her if something comes up in between meetings – especially if a parent raises they need support. We can't help if we don't know about it.</p>
<p>2. Minutes</p>	<p>Smartphone Free Childhood:</p> <p>We revisited our previous minute which refers to an item raised by a parent with regards to children's usage of mobile phones and parents considering not purchasing smart phones until children are sixteen. DS has been in contact with the Bristol based charity Papaya founded by Dr Susie Davies to explore booking a series of workshops and a parent talk during Term One with an aim of raising awareness around this important subject. Smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk has very good links to exploring the issue and recommended resources.</p> <p>POST MEETING NOTE: DS met with a working group of parents on this subject and the next step is to draft an article for the newsletter to raise awareness and share resources and support around this subject.</p>

	<p>Travel Plan and school access: Our Governor – Ruth Moody – has secured sponsorship for signage on our zig zag lines to support no parking or drop offs on these. She has also met with Mrs Hardy and Mrs Spincer to discuss the school Travel Plan – we have a walk to school event planned in the last week of this term which we will promote via the newsletter. We will explore costs of repainting the footprints on the school drive to encourage our children to stay on the paths.</p>
<p>3. Swimming pool update</p>	<p>DS talked through the updates for the refurbishment of the Swimming Pool and the timeline for this – which is that works are scheduled to have finished in time to reopen in Term Six. Thank you to all parents who completed the questionnaires with regards to their children and swimming.</p> <p>Website: We have a dedicated section on Swimming under ‘the office’ which contains our swimming rota and other useful information. Our newsletter and latest news section will sign post further updates including the sign up charts as swimming will not be able to happen without volunteers (we need to ensure DBS checks are in place) to support the smooth running of the lessons – so that Mr Lye who is our swimming teacher, can focus on the lessons.</p> <p>Voluntary contributions: As part of the communication we will be asking parents for voluntary contributions towards the swimming lessons. This is crucial as we want all children to be able to swim.</p>
<p>4. Butterfly Class/EYFS</p>	<p>Butterflies: Positive feedback on the teachers generally. It’s recognised and very appreciated how hard they work, during and out of school hours. The kids also all loved the Wonderdome, so just a thank you to them all really.</p> <p>(DS: Thank you.)</p> <p>New fencing: The new fence. Generally parents are happy with the extra security it provides so feedback has been positive. Just one question on the timings of the gates being locked and does it leave enough time for parents to speak the teachers before the start of the day.</p> <p>(Sycamore also raised the timing of the gate locking – DS explained the decision making with regards to this plus the new intercom of the front gate. With regards to the intercom – we have a new wireless system which now links to our phones – we apologise if this means there is a short wait before answering but the system itself should be more reliable. We recommend that only urgent messages are passed on to teachers at the start of the day and this needs to be well before 8:50am so that staff are able to settle the children and start the register on time. The School Office are available for any further queries which can be passed on to staff during the morning. It is important that the site is secure at 8:50am and that any late comers therefore come round to the school office. FS/KS1 move to their phonics lesson at 8:55 am therefore it is important staff are able to start the registers on time.)</p>

	<p>Communication: General questions on the teachers preferred way to communicate for general enquiries. How would they like to receive questions around progress/things the children mention or information we need to pass to the teacher. (Email, tapestry, at pick up etc) DS: please see the above. Teaching staff have a finite amount of time – if the query is general could the query be answered by the office or raised at pick up? Is the information already in the newsletter or the school website?</p> <p>Positive feedback on reading and phonics - the clarity to parents on how the child is progressing has improved following parents evening and more reading diary entries from school. Thank you. (DS: Thank you for the positive feedback.)</p> <p>School pick up time clarification. Pupils have been seen leaving the school early on several occasions (3:09 on one). It makes some children anxious if the class is let out and their parents isn't there to pick them up. (DS: I have flagged this with the staff and 3:15pm is the pick up time. The staff have asked that parents do not come round to the classroom too early – after 3pm at least please – as the children can become unsettled and distracted.)</p>
<p>5. Pear Class/Year One (Apple Class/Year One – nothing raised on this occasion)</p>	<p>Consultation Evening appointment timings: One thing I did wonder was if parents evening appointments could be released in the evening rather than first thing in morning? At present it means anyone at work and unable to access a phone can't book appointments until later and then lots have gone. The Thursday for one class had gone by 4pm the day they released appointments. (DS: Yes of course – Mrs Holdaway has made a note of this for next time.)</p> <p>Also on a positive note. The children have had great extra-curricular opportunities, camps, forest school and trips and thank the staff for that and the extra work involved. (DS: Thank you)</p> <p>And that there seems to be a few cars driving up to school while children are leaving at 3.15, this seems quite dangerous, I did notice a sign that was leant against the gate at one point, could this be moved to the front possibly? (DS will remind the caretaker to put the signs out at the top of the drive to ensure cars cannot access the site.)</p>
<p>7. Cherry Class and Palm Class/Year Two</p>	<p>No items raised.</p>

<p>10. Sycamore/Year Three Maple/Year Three</p>	<p>We discussed an email received which raised a number of points around local walks which referenced a walk down to Wellsway to attend a sports workshop. Some of our PVG representatives attended this event and were able to share their perspective. It raised some points with regards to organisation and behaviour.</p> <p>DS has discussed this feedback with our team and we can explore next steps. One clarification is that a walk to Wellsway to take part in a sporting activity is a very different activity to our Ascension Day walk where there are no timing constraints. However, we would still follow our arrangements until the children are past the main roads and accessing the fields etc. We always explain to the children that when they're out of school, they are still representing the school. When you let children choose partners, some children are inevitably left out. Staff are very mindful of the responsibility walking along the main road and getting them there and back on time – therefore we feel it needs to be structured and tight. We don't agree that singing on this occasion was appropriate.</p>
<p>12. Lime Class/Year Four Willow Class/Year Four</p>	<p>A huge thank you for a wonderful Year 4 Camp and everyone involved from Lime Class.</p> <p>The Forest School / outdoor options are being received very positively so these types of activities are a thumbs up from parents in Lime.</p> <p>(DS: Thank you.)</p> <p>We also discussed as a PVG social media and camps/visits – moving forwards DS share with parents at the camp meetings what to expect – we have just shared photographs from Year Four and Five via a link.</p>
<p>14. Bumblebee Class/EYFS</p>	<p>Some feedback from parents re after school clubs. Parents were disappointed to learn forest school for EYFS would fall on the same day as gymnastics afterschool club as the options for EYFS (outside of chuckles) are limited. It has meant some who would have liked to join forest school cannot as the committed and paid for gym before the forest school notification went out. Looking forward into yr 1, will there be a timetable or schedule available for after school clubs so parents can book the clubs which suit their children and know when clubs or sessions are coming up? I always tell the children that when they're out of school, they are still representing the school.</p> <p>(DS: there is a dedicated section on our school website under “Children” which includes a timetable/schedule of all clubs each term – we highlight the whole school timetable as part of the launch newsletter at the start of each term. Our office will discuss with our forest school provider the year groups for the terms – she has introduced an additional club as there is such demand and also runs our weekly sessions during school time.)</p>

	<p>I believe the school should give all parents the opportunity to give their own feed back on outsourced companies offering afterschool clubs, as parents we pay for most of them. I'm not sure how the school could promote this or what it would look like but in all the 6 years I've been at the school they have never asked for feedback.</p> <p>(DS: Mrs Rich works part time in our office and supports us with the promotion of clubs on our premises. Those run by external companies lease our premises – we don't have a contract with them. If parents wish to raise anything with a club provider then they should email them directly. If parents wish to raise anything with regards to a club then they should email the school office and Mrs Rich will liaise with Mrs Sage with regards to this.)</p> <p>We are always on the look out for recommendations of club providers or for parents to volunteer to run clubs which is a real support to us – that includes any clubs for EYFS. The annual parent questionnaire is an opportunity to provide feedback – which can also be positive – with regards to club providers – albeit you can email us at any time as well as raise items for discussion as part of our PVG meetings.)</p> <p>It would be helpful for the school to advise how long the contracts are in place for (e.g. I assume we have already signed a contract with all current after school providers but these will have an end date) and how the school makes a decision on who to go with/ whether to extend a contract. And if/ how parents can feed into this process. (DS: please see the above comment – we do not have contracts in place – clubs lease our space.)</p> <p>Is there any school age appropriate training out there for teaching the kids basic life-saving skills, eg how to call for an ambulance and CPR basics? Feels like such an important life skill and I think schools could be a great place to learn maybe in year 5/6?</p> <p>(Yes – children in Year Six visit the life skills centre in Bristol where all these themes are covered. The report for this went in the newsletter last term. Any links to a provider who could run a club on this theme would also be well received.)</p>
<p>15. Horse-chestnut Class/Year Five Elm Class/Year Five</p>	<p>We had received a few items albeit just before the meeting – DS emailed the representative directly with regards to this.</p>
<p>16. Oak/Year Six Ask Class/Year Six</p>	<p>No items raised.</p>

AOB	<p>We discussed ensuring air quality is monitored via our CO2 monitors and reminders with regards to opening doors, windows and roof vents to aid this.</p> <p>We also discussed making it clear if a request for payment has been made via MCAS using products – for example swimming contributions / Year Six celebration breakfast.</p>
Date and time of next meeting:	<p>DS mentioned that if anything comes up in the meantime to contact her directly or drop in to see her face to face – all representatives have her email.</p>