



## **Parent Council Meeting Minutes 16.03.22**

### **Apologies**

Apologies were sent from Jody Blackman, Fiona Walls, Jess Ellis, Louise Romanis, Lissa Lindgren and Jo Salmon.

### **School Update – After School Club**

The trial has begun this term and will continue for the summer term. So far it is going well – the children have lots of fun things to play with as well as time in the computer suite.

We do now need those who have requested this provision to sign up so that it is cost effective. Please do encourage parents to contact us if they are interested in sending their child after Easter, or even after the summer. We will also contact Year 2 parents as part of the transition process.

The email address for parents to use is [afterschoolclub@wljs.porticoacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:afterschoolclub@wljs.porticoacademytrust.co.uk)

### **School Update – Playground**

We have tried really hard to get the provision for our playground right – we are working with such a small space that it has been vital to consider all options. However, we think that we are finally there. An order has gone in for one piece of equipment and the rest will be finalised this week. There has also been a large amount of new play equipment brought out for the children over the last few days – including building materials, drawing/art, Lego and dressing up clothes. The children have responded very positively to this and have really enjoyed playing with all the new toys.

Please share the message that we are still in need of any Lego/Duplo and larger sizes of dressing up clothes.

### **11+ Preparation/Information**

A letter to parents has gone out this week to provide the date for the parent meeting – Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will provide year 5 parents with all the information that they need.

### **Bikeability**

The question was raised as to why we no longer provide Bikeability (Year 6 cycling proficiency lessons) within school time. Three years ago we stopped being able to provide this as it was no longer able to fit within the curriculum and we would have to lose important subjects in order to fit it in – children were missing important parts of the curriculum such as French and music. We do signpost parents to external providers of this service.

### **Finishing Times**

Some parents have said that the staggered finishing times cause some problems when collecting children from multiple year groups. However this has greatly cut down the large number of parents on/exiting the playground and makes the whole process much calmer and more orderly. Feedback from parents who have experienced collection before the staggered times is that the current system is much better. If there is anyone who is really struggling, please ask them to get in touch and we will accommodate their needs as best as we can.

### **Maths Books at Book Look**

Parents have been unable to find their child's maths book at book look. We will remind staff to put these out - they should be on the class teacher's desk during the book look. Maths 'drop in' sessions will also be arranged following this term's learning conferences for parents to meet with their child's maths teacher (if they are not their class teacher).

### **SATs Pressure**

Mr Lear confirmed that the children are not put under any pressure regarding SATs. There will also be a meeting for Year 6 parents about SATs on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, where they will receive more information.

### **ParentPay Communications**

We have contacted ParentPay about setting up multiple contacts for one family – the mechanism was given to us and we have been using it, but have found that it does not work. We are now following up with ParentPay to investigate and sort the issue.

Feedback was given that ParentPay is confusing and not always straightforward to use.

Please ask parents to inform you of the problems that they encounter with Parentpay – collated responses can then be sent to [office@wljs.porticoacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:office@wljs.porticoacademytrust.co.uk)

### **Russia/Ukraine War Coverage**

This is dealt with very carefully and sensitively in school. Teachers use Newsround but do regularly stop and discuss the issues raised at pertinent points. 'Picture News' resource is also used weekly – a resource that focuses on a key news story and provides discussion points and ideas for teachers to use in class. Mr Lear also sends out resources that he receives as safeguarding lead to support teachers in having discussions around these issues and Mrs Halls has sent a resource to support those children who may have trouble understanding the events in the news.

### **Parent Conferences**

The next parent conferences are the last for the year. A full report will then be sent in the summer term, with the opportunity to discuss any concerns within the report with your child's class teacher if needed.

### **Year 6 Assembly**

We certainly hope that this assembly will be a live event.

### **April Guidance re: Isolation**

A letter from UKHSA was sent to parents last week which reflects current guidance.

### **Residential Trips**

Danbury for Year 5 and Ilam Hall for Year 6 will continue as normal. Year 4 do not have a residential trip, but they do go to coastal schools multiple times throughout the year. Year 3 usually have a one night overnight stay at Belchamps, but due to Covid we were unable to book for this year. We are currently looking at alternatives.

### **Next Meeting**

The date for our next meeting will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June.