

## Minutes of Parent Forum meeting - 23/02/24

### Present:

Mrs Wilde

Rachel Ford- Foundation

Samantha Rocket- Year 1

Poppy Smith- Year 3

Rachel Alamghir- Year 6

### Apologies:

Karen Gwynne- Year 2

Rachel Miller- Year 4

Ruth Redding- Year 5

### After School Clubs

Teacher led clubs never run on the 1<sup>st</sup> week after a holiday as its incredibly busy for the staff who are setting up new topics/ planning etc. This will continue.

Mrs Wilde thinks the school offer a good number of clubs and a good variety. Outside sports clubs can't be run during the winter as its too dark/ wet/ slippy etc.

The aim is to set up a club's provision plan for the whole year so parents and staff can plan more easily.

Choir is only for years 5 & 6 this term as they are preparing for the Echoes concert. Years 3 & 4 will get their chance to do this in 2 years' time.

### P.E. Teacher

The school has never had a full time P.E. Teacher. Mr Messenger taught PE as a sports coach, but he was also a school TA. At present Mr McGeeney/ his staff cover some of the PE lessons.

There are other sporting opportunities available like gymnastic competitions, swimming competitions and football/ netball teams and matches etc. so quite a wide variety of opportunities are offered at the school.

Year 3 parents thanked the school for the football club being provided.

### Lunch tables

Due to the logistics of timings and space the children who have packed lunches sit on a separate table to the children who have school lunches. This has to be the case in order to get everyone in and fed in the short lunchtime and in order for the children to also get time to play outside.

Portion sizes were reported by some parents as being quite small for the older pupils, so Mrs Wilde will contact the catering company and feedback parents' concerns. It may also be useful if parents who have concerns also email the catering company directly.

### School bus

Some parents who live outside of catchment asked if they could put their children on the bus between sites. The bus is not arranged by school. It is provided by Bucks school transport. Parents can contact them directly but if they live out of catchment then parents have to pay for the bus in between sites which is approx. £600 per school year.

### Reading books

On the Infant site the children get one phonics or reading level book per week. Research shows that the best way of learning is through repetition and practice. They also get 1 library book per week. There are other books etc on the bug club website.

Junior site children are able to change their books any time.

### House points

House points are given for reading the phonics books etc. They won't be given for other books as the reward for reading these is the enjoyment of reading itself.

It was mentioned that some like the house points system, but others have commented that it can breed some negative competition. The school have found it to be really positive and the children love the new house boxes where they can visually see the tokens each house has.

House points can be given for anything; reading, being helpful, good work, superstars of the week etc.

### Infant/ Junior outside area and pond.

The pond is a natural pond so in the winter it is often very wet and unusable. The aim will be to get out there again as soon as the weather improves. Mrs Wilde is also going to speak to the company who look after the site to ask them to try and tidy up the area, so it is more usable.

Infant site clean-up/ grounds workday planned for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Ali Lewis is heading this up and would welcome as many parents as possible to join her and help. No children on the day please for health and safety reasons.

The emails of parent reps will be given to Ali Lewis/ F4CADS so they can liaise regarding this and future endeavours.

Last Tuesday some parents power washed the Infant playground and someone else is coming on Saturday to do some more.

The chalk board will also be painted on 23<sup>rd</sup> March- weather permitting.

### Forest school

Mrs Wilde is still looking into this, and she hopes to have someone who can come in and design/ plan/ revitalise the entire infant outside area.

If anyone knows of any government grants available for Forest schools, please contact Mrs Wilde.

### Homework

There has been feedback that Maths Shed isn't very good, and the school agrees so this package will not be renewed in September. Mrs Wilde is looking into other options. as My Maths (used previously) didn't always align with how/ what staff were teaching.

Spellings- teachers think the new online system is working really well and research shows that it is much better for long-term learning. Lots of parents commented that they preferred the spellings sheets so the children can write the spellings down. This is done in school too, so it was discussed that a double approach might be better. Then the children can still use the online system but also bring home the list so they can write out the spellings too.

A number of parents have commented that their children are missing the creative homework that used to be set in their homework books. The children now seem to get online homework set- like maths/ spellings but they are not getting much work that uses their independent learning/ research/ creativity etc.

It was discussed that maybe this could be set monthly/ each half term and longer time given to complete it?

#### Bike Ability

This is being looked into by one of the parent reps. If anyone has any contacts or info on any companies that offer this, please contact the school office.

Next Meeting- 7<sup>th</sup> June- 9am Infant site.