

Parents Panel Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 9:10am

Present – DT, MF, JS, AW

Item 1 – Parents Panel Charter

The parent’s panel charter was reviewed and displayed. The agreements are as follows:

- All contributions are welcome.
- Respect all contributions, even when opinions are different to your own.
- Keep it general, not personal.
- Keep contributions positive.
- Stick to the topic being discussed.
- Don’t use individual names of children/staff.

Item 2 – Previous actions

An update on the actions from the previous meeting was given:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Progress towards the action</u>
Check where we are up to with playground leaders.	Playground leader training was arranged for 20 th January but had to be postponed due to the icy conditions. It has been rearranged for 24 th February. Following the training, relevant equipment will be purchased to support the playground leaders in delivering their games.
Discussion with staff about teaching their class a game to play at playtime, as an alternative to football e.g. What time is it Mr Wolf?	Some of the playground leader games will be based around ‘traditional’ games, so these will be incorporated into playtimes and dinnertimes.
Look at the budget and involve the school council in buying some playtime toys.	Further equipment may be purchased once the playground leaders are up and running.
Discussion with children/staff about appropriate playtime language.	These discussions have taken place.
School council to create ground rules for playtimes.	These will be developed during the 2 nd half of the Spring term.

Item 3 – Communication between home and school

Parents were asked for their opinions on current communication between home and school. Some parents felt that the half termly class newsletters were too little. The panel were reminded that, in addition to the half-termly class newsletters, we also update Facebook as often as possible and we have the class blogs which are published twice every half term. Panel members asked if a link could be posted on the Facebook page when the blogs are published. DT said that he would ensure this was done from now on. Parents like the Facebook page and DT said that he will update this as often as possible to showcase learning taking place in school.

The 3 parents who attended the meeting commented that the communication in their year group was different to the communication they received when their child was in Reception. DT explained

that Reception use Tapestry and other forms of updates but that expectations for Years 1-6 were different and less regular. DT said that he would ensure this is communicated to current Reception parents, prior to them moving up to Year 1.

Item 4 – School Lunches

Parents reported that their child has switched to packed lunches recently as the choice has been rather limited. DT explained the issues that school have been having with the boiler in the kitchen and that, during this period, the menu choices have been limited. DT said that the boiler is now fixed and it is hoped that the normal menu offer can be restarted again.

Item 5 – Toast and Fruit

AW questioned how the toast scheme works. DT explained that parents have the option to pay £1 per week for toast, if they want their child to have toast as a snack. For those who don't have toast, KS1 children also get fruit. In KS2, we promote bringing a healthy snack from home if they don't buy toast. Parents asked if a child in KS1 could get fruit if they have also had toast and DT confirmed that they can. MF offered, on behalf of the PTFA, to top up the toast money so that every child could have toast if they wished. DT will look at the toast lists and see how many children currently don't have toast and then will come back to the PTFA.

Item 5 – Homework

DT asked the panel for their opinions about the homework they would like their child to receive. JS said that they currently get spellings but that she would welcome extra homework. AW disagreed and said that she felt homework wasn't necessary in KS1 and that it should be progressive as children move through KS2. Spelling tests were discussed and parents reported that their children can get all spellings right at home but then not in the test. DT will speak with staff and other schools regarding spelling tests. A phonics session for parents was suggested and DT will look into this.

Item 6 – Promoting school in the community

DT explained that he is looking for ways to continue to promote school positively in the local community. The Facebook page is a great way for people to connect with school. Parents suggested that we forge a link with our local nursing homes as well as promoting our outdoor space wherever possible, as other schools in the area don't have the outdoor space that we have. AW reported that Hope Academy are always looking for outdoor space in the area for their Go Velo sessions.

Item 7 – Other Items Discussed

- Sweets – Parents felt that sweets should not be given as a reward as we are a healthy school.
- Future meetings – offer parents the opportunity to submit ideas/thoughts for parents panel through email if they can't attend.

Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting was closed.

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 29th March at 6:00pm.

Actions for DT following the meeting:

- **Ensure that links are posted on Facebook when the class blogs are published.**
- **Letter to current Reception parents in the Summer 2nd half about how home/school communication will look different as they move into Year 1.**
- **Look at the toast list and see how many children don't currently have toast.**
- **Look into a phonics session for parents of KS1 children.**
- **Make links with local nursing homes.**
- **Look into the Hope Academy idea for Go Velo sessions.**
- **Speak with staff about sweets being given out as a reward.**
- **Before the next meeting, offer parents chance to submit thoughts by email – include this on the newsletters.**