

MEETING NOTES



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| MEETING: Parent Panel | |
| DATE: 10 February 2023 | TIME: 2.30 pm |
| VENUE: Seaburn Dene Primary School | |
| PRESENT: E Barnes - Parent L Judson – Parent J Lowton - Grandparent T Mercer - Parent L Mewes – Parent N Marrs – Parent S O’Neill - Parent L Scott – Parent J K Howe – Head Teacher G L Smith – Deputy Head Teacher (part of meeting) | |
| IN ATTENDANCE: L Halliday – School Business Manager – Note Taker | |

Mr Howe welcomed parents to the meeting. The following points were raised / discussed:

- Matters arising from previous meeting;
 - Potential for children to learn about animals, e.g., their care and how to approach them, especially with regard to dogs. Mrs Mercer expressed an interest to be involved. Opportunities to work with the PDSA and Dogs’ Trust may be available. Bark and Read is no longer possible due to availability.
 - Early Years have now had talks and visits from the Police and Nurses.
- After School Clubs / Extra Curricular Activities;
 - Many clubs are available – providers and organisation of clubs were described.
 - Current interventions in Years 1, 2 and 6 prevent staff holding their own clubs, but it is likely that such clubs will resume when interventions are completed.
 - Zumba and Boxercise were reported as being popular.
 - Athletics and cricket are planned for the summer.
 - Mr Ashton will be arranging a lunchtime running club.
 - School currently involved in a project relating to childhood obesity. Ten Sunderland schools are taking part. School is involved in the launch of the project at the beach. Various activities will be promoted, including Triathlon.
 - Noted that our school offers more than many other schools in Sunderland. Art, theatre, music, science and sport etc. are all actively promoted.

- A musical in school is planned for this year – the first since lockdown – for Years 3, 4 and 5.
- A production by Y6 will take place towards the end of the year.
- Y1 and Y2 perform the Nativity.
- The choir takes part in carol singing at Christmas and is involved in the City Streets Festival. This is usually more suitable for the older (i.e., junior) children.
- Mr Day plans to organise a sports club in the summer e.g., running / cricket, and he also currently arranges games and sports during lunchtime.
- Mr Good offers cycling in the summer.
- Parents are keen on encouraging healthy habits in children.
- The Daily Mile is being reintroduced.
- Costs of after school clubs thought to be fair and suggestion of £4 an hour, in line with B&T Club was suggested. Due to differences between child care, and an interest/hobby, it was suggested that it would be more acceptable to pay more for an interest than for child care.
- Mr Howe to look at costings and what can be offered.
- The reintroduction of Gardening Club during lesson time was suggested. This was a post-lockdown project funded by Community Chest grant funding. Volunteers have been asked to take part previously but interest and commitment have been varied. Mrs Mercer expressed an interest in volunteering.
- School Funding;
 - The process of school funding was explained. The impact of Seaburn Dene not being regarded as an area of high deprivation results in our school not being eligible for a variety of funding streams and grants. For example, many schools in high deprivation areas attract funding and grants for such things as Breakfast Club, whereas our B&T Club has to pay for itself.
 - Amazon Smile was suggested as a means of fund-raising. Although this may be discontinued, it was suggested that it be promoted further by the Friends Group.
 - The impact of class sizes on school funding was explained. Reception to Y3 classes have more pupils than Years 4, 5 and 6. Larger pupil numbers attract more funding.
 - Noted that school faces a number of challenges ahead with regard to funding.
- Miscellaneous;
 - It was suggested that the personal and familial feel to the school played a significant part in the success and popularity of the school, and is more important to some parents than statistics.
 - Volunteer opportunities will be available in the near future.
 - School meals: The four-week menu rota is unpopular to some, due to inconsistencies week to week. There are also problems relating to meals chosen not being available when food runs out. It is possible that in the next academic year there will be changes to the system.
 - School is working with Oasis, based at Esh Winning with regard to Climate Friendly Schools. The project involves ten actions to reduce our carbon footprint. Many children are interested in the project.

- Children worked with Northern Sinfonia last term. A trip to The Fire Station next week, is related to the work done previously.
- Governor Development Day – 07/02/2023; The process of governors attending school, visiting classes and speaking to children was described.
- Year 6 are currently working around school with regard to Children’s Mental Health Week.
- Communication is a regular subject in school surveys. Agreed that communication is much improved, especially with Class DoJo. Noted that staff are not expected to respond out of school hours. Many parents aware of this but suggested that other parents are reminded of this via the Friends Group.
- Congestion at the school gate each morning is causing concern. Suggestion made to open the first gate so that the path does not become overcrowded. Damage to the gate can make it difficult to open, but there are also supervision issues once a child is on school grounds. Mr Howe to discuss options with the Site Supervisor, and perhaps look at the staff rota.

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| NAME: J K Howe | DESIGNATION: Head Teacher |
| DATE: | SIGNATURE: |