

Parent Forum Friday 13 October 2023

Present: Tim Whitehead (Head Teacher) Karen Law (Parent Governor Minutes) and Various Parents/Carers from school

Agenda items put forward by school:

- Pupil Voice in School Topic
- Parent Choice of Further Matters to Discuss

Pupil Voice in School Topic

TW invited two pupils from the Eco Warrior's team to tell the Forum about their work. They explained that a visitor had been to school to discuss and encourage ways that we can protect the environment. They gave examples of special laptop cases to avoid the need for laptops to stay on all the time. They have also been encouraged to turn lights off when they are not in use. The children have also been encouraged and shown how to take meter readings in order to monitor usage over the period of a week. The children are aware that by reducing their usage the cost is reduced along with their carbon footprint. TW added to this by explaining that the possibility of having a refill stall for the community is currently being looked into and gave examples of liquid soap refills/soap bars to reduce plastic. TW is aware of such stations in the locality and is considering running such a stall on a Friday. TW provided information regarding Plastic Free school awards and recycling week which will take place week commencing 16 October and the children will watch slides and take part in lessons regarding plastic use reduction. The local newspaper was suggested as a means of advertising a potential refill stall. TW made reference to Kildwick receiving a Healthy School award last year. KL suggested the possible installation of a smart meter and a further trip to Harlow Carr was discussed. TW will look into these.

Cost of School Trips

A concern was raised by some of the parents regarding the cost of school trips and a discussion took place as to how the impact of the costs can potentially be mitigated. KL suggested splitting the cost throughout the year as a possible solution and TW explained that the residential trips are split in this way. A parent suggested that the PTA could be asked to specifically fund raise for trips e.g grow a pound which the children have enjoyed. TW agreed that he will pass on the comments to the PTA.

Girls Football/Sport

A concern was expressed by a parent regarding children who are not naturally sporty and how they can be encouraged in this respect. A discussion took place regarding girls' football and the current popularity experienced by the sport at the moment. TW explained that sport is part of the curriculum and as such the children have to participate. The school also acts to signpost children to sporting clubs and TW gave the example of a local running club who he is connected with. It was acknowledged that participation in sport outside of school is dependent on the parents' own available time and resources. A parent explained that as a coach of a local team he has found that asking children what they want out of sessions has been found to encourage them. Dancing was suggested as an activity which might appeal to less sporty children. TW explained that Mrs Wilkinson was able to provide dancing at school in the past but is unable to at the current time due to her degree work. Gymnastics was also mentioned as previously being offered by the school. TW explained that the school is restricted in what it can offer and that the school does offer more than other local schools. TW is keen to offer sport wherever possible and has joined Skipton Partnership which has the advantage of being able to involve the whole class rather than a selected few. TW

confirmed that his approach is to jump on opportunities as they arise. KL mentioned the possibility of a motivational speaker and TW may be able to approach his running club in this respect.

Inability for Parents to be Present When Invited Into School

A parent raised a concern that parents are not always able to e.g take time out of work to come into school which has resulted in upset to some of the younger children. TW explained that such events can only take place during the school day and cannot happen after school. He also explained that other carers and grandparents are welcome to attend in place of parents. The parents suggested splitting some of the days so that not all parents are invited in at the same time so that the younger children do not feel left out.

Salary Sacrifice

A parent asked why salary sacrifice scheme cannot be used to pay for school meals. TW agreed to try and check the position in this respect.