

Parent Forum Friday 21st May 2021

Present: Tim Whitehead (Head Teacher) Donna Akrigg (Minutes) + Five Parents/Carers from school.

Apologies: Parent Governor Liz Snell.

Agenda items put forward by parents:

- School trips inc. Year 6 Residential
- Speeding traffic past school
- Extended hours at before school club

Agenda items put forward by school:

- Mental health and well being
- Peggy Wilson playing field
- School Development
- Healthy Schools

School trips

School trips can now go ahead. Robins and Swallows (Class One and Two) and Kingfishers and Owls (Class three and four) have trips planned w/c 24th May. TW has looked into all options for a Year 6 residential but all providers want a non-refundable deposit. Various day activities have been planned for Year 6 instead, including cycling proficiency. The current year 6 children did go on a residential in year 4. School want to resume year 4 children going on a residential again next year (in addition to the year 6 residential). A one night residential earlier in KS2 helps the children to prepare for the residential in year 6 and we feel that this is a valuable experience for the children.

A parent said that she felt that the school had done really well to get the children on trips again so quickly and that this was appreciated by parents.

Speeding – Priest Bank Road

TW acknowledged that the closure of the White Lion Car Park was unfortunate as parents could previously use it to park and walk up to school. TW has contacted the security company and they said they would speak to the owners and discuss the possibility of the school having a key for access at limited times. We have not had any updates on this. School has a ‘soft start’ and ‘soft finish’ to the day to try and prevent all parents leaving and arriving at the same time (this was in place prior to Covid). School have previously contacted the council about additional signage re speed limits etc but would ask that parents do the same as the more requests the better.

A parent said that there is nearly always room around the bus stop area, the church car park is also in use. Parents are regularly asked not to turn in the area near to the school kitchen. We do know that some parents/carers still do this. A parent suggested use of portable barriers to put out at the start and end of the day. TW would need to check with properties behind school before doing this.

School do intend to do some work with the charity ‘BRAKE’ around road safety and road safety is already part of our PSHE curriculum. The walking bus is due to start and parents are encouraged to support this and help it develop as much as possible. This would mean a big reduction on traffic around school.

Before School Club

Two families have asked for before school club to start earlier. TW/DA explained that Mrs Pink (and other club staff) already arrive at 7:30am to set up and make preparations for breakfast. If club was to start any earlier staff would need to start at 7am/7:15am. In addition to this some staff work in school during the day as Teaching Assistants / Midday Supervisors and then work at after school club. They often don't finish until 6:15pm-6:30pm. We have to consider the working day of the staff and any changes to club times would involve a change in contracted hours.

Club is still running at a loss and school are covering the financial loss. Some staff have been furloughed and are gradually returning to work and the club has been in school to reduce overheads during covid. Numbers are gradually increasing and school are very grateful to Mrs Pink and her team for keeping club going at a time when some schools have had to close their before and after school provision. Parents and carers are asked to continue to use club as much as possible.

Mental Health and Well Being

TW discussed that health and well-being remains a priority for school in terms of children, families and staff and asked that parents and carers offer suggestions and ideas to continue to keep this a priority in the next academic year. A member of staff in school will take responsibility for being a mental health ambassador and this will also be closely linked to our drive to keep children active.

We discussed the importance of mental health following covid. Most children have settled back well back into school, there are some children requiring some additional support and this is being done one to one with children and referral made to external agencies where necessary. A parent stated that she felt the school had done more around mental health than other schools during covid and that the message from school about mental health being the priority over everything else had been very clear during remote learning.

Peggy Wilson Playing Field

TW discussed the use of the community playing field. There is a circuit training group meeting regularly now. Also Paul Lewis (parent) is there between 2pm and 4pm each Saturday for anyone who would like to join him gardening. It is great to use the field being used by the community. TW is looking into the possibility of a track around the perimeter of the Rec which would enable the school to use it more in winter months. We also discussed the boggy area which Canals and Rivers trust are investigating and some of the trees which need attention in the Rec. Again, Canals and rivers trust are responsible for this as the trees are on the retaining wall.

Healthy Schools

School will be applying for the gold level 'Healthy Schools' Award. This will be linked to the work in the community garden. In addition, there are long term plans to make a 'children's kitchen' in the current staffroom. This would be part of our curriculum development around Design Technology and give more opportunity for children to prepare and cook/bake in school.