

Minutes for PFG meeting 14th June 2024

In attendance

Emma Fenn(EF) - Headteacher
Amanda Bowran(AB) - Business manager
Suzie Birchwood(SB) - Parent governor
Jo Medcraft(JM) - Chair of PFG and Hazel class rep
Marie McGrath(MM) - Nursery rep
Kelly Searle(KS) - Lime (reception) and Fir (yr 3) rep
Charlotte Watson(CW) - Willow (reception) rep
Rick Wilson(RW) - Beech (yr 1) rep
Laura Molloy(LM) - Oak (yr 1) rep
Alex Colville(AC) - yr 2 rep
Sarah Wilkinson(SW) - elm (yr 3) rep
Pam Tolchard(PT) - yr 4
Emma Carion(EC) - Cedar (yr 5) rep

Apologies

Lilly Sieve - yr 6 rep

JM gave her thanks to all reps for attending throughout the year and discussed if happy to continue next year (subject to class allocation). EF added her thanks and emphasised how beneficial the group is as a starting point for conversations within the SLT.

JM explained that this meeting was a round up of what has gone on over the year and that she would pick out a few things which came up more than once in the feedback.

JM - class photo versus year group photo? Feedback seemed to lean towards a class one as opposed to a year group one. EF suggested that this could be a question for the next PFG feedback form next year.

JM - sharing assemblies to be held in the mornings after drop off. EF explained that some children might be late to school and that the lower school classes need that extra time to prepare the children. They will remain at 2.30 with plenty of notice given to parents.

JM - some would like parent's evenings to go back to face to face. EF - they will remain online but parents can request a face to face meeting whenever they like.

JM - split on homework. Some want more and some want different, more creative tasks. This is something which will always split opinion. SW suggested maybe a variety of tasks as currently it is very maths heavy. EF said that the staff will take a look at the balance, although it is harder to find appropriate and engaging English tasks. SW - the positive is that the maths is working well.

CW - phonics meetings for early years parents was fantastic and full of useful information. Would it be possible to have them earlier in the year and more than one session? EF - glad they were useful and will feedback to EY team.

EF - some feedback regarding the lack of trips for yr 4 over their school journey. It was agreed that they did miss out on trips in early years due to covid but going forward EF confirmed that there would be one offsite trip, one History off the Page activity (funded by the PTA) and one local/walkable trip. AC - it might seem that the lower school have more exciting trips and that yr3/4 not so! PT commented that the History Off the Page days are excellent. SB said her son said it was the best day of his life! JM/AC said that the Young Mariners trip was fantastic and extended their thanks to all the staff who went. AB said that the James Marshall Foundation had supported some families with funding for that this year.

EF - extended thanks to parents for getting on board with driving up attendance as the current figure is up 3% on this

time last year, which might not seem a lot but does make a difference.

JM - feedback again regarding selections for sports teams. AC said that it seems that other activities are more diverse and open to all abilities, but that sport is different. There are some children who are very keen but it is the same children in the teams every time. EF - everyone was invited to try out for district sports but other sports can be more prescriptive about how many boys and girls per team. EF - other schools play to win and are very competitive and Redbourn needs to be up there with them. The bottom line is that without a full school, funding is reduced and having a full time PE teacher is a luxury. Sport is one way to show off Redbourn Primary outside of Redbourn. RW- maybe friendlies could be organised but the children don't need to know that they are friendlies! EF - we have tried to organise but when weather forces a cancellation then friendlies are quite often hard to fit in and reschedule. SW - agreed it would be nice to give others a chance and that there is positivity in that. SB - interested in this as the governor for inclusion. She agreed that we need to value talented children but we do need to think of a way to value those who are not so talented. She is happy to give input on how to focus on inclusion in sport. CW - how about interhouse tournaments? She is happy to support Mr Stevenson in delivering those. EF - maybe parents could get involved in facilitating friendly fixtures. Everyone agreed that this was in no way a criticism of Mr Stevenson - he does a fantastic job.

EF responded to other comments that had come in on the feedback forms.

Re, siblings at sharing assemblies - there is just not the space. They do get to see the christmas productions.

Re, availability of other music clubs. All yr 3 get a year of free recorder in school and then are offered a free recorder club in

yr 4. With Ofsted due around Easter the focus has been on other things but now on track the SLT will be looking at the provision in lower school.

EF - crouch hall lane gate only opened at 8.40 as some parents were leaving their children early.

EF - non-uniform days are a success. LM suggested maybe other things like mad hair day could be an alternative to mix things up a bit. KS - maybe they could be used as a reward for the winners of the house tournaments.

EF - feedback on the 15min wait for afternoon nursery to finish. MM said it is a tricky time as school has finished but equipment out of bounds, which is hard for lower school children to understand. EF - this could be a question for the survey next term.

EF - any other questions. RW had been given a question by a parent about starting Morning Club at 7.30? And can it offer food? EF - it was originally starting at 8 and has been moved forward to 7.45. The staff that run it then go on to work in the school so that affects what breaks they need during the day. Will definitely look at it going forward.

SB - lots of positive comments about teaching and staff, with focus on the community of the school.

EF - many thanks for contributions over the year.

JM - definitely good to see more positive than negative. Will liaise with reps once new classes are announced to see who will be rep for which class.