



## Parent Voice Group MEETINGS 2023

**Meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm – 8.30 pm via Zoom**

ITEMS	OUTCOMES / ACTIONS / DATES
<p><b>Attendees:</b> Dawn Sage (DS, Headteacher), Dani Taylor (Vice Chair of governors)            Jessica O’Neill and Michelle Duffett (Bumblebee) Katie Blanch and Kate Timmons (Butterfly) Rosanna Piper and Esther Kinnear (Apple Class)            Dr Kate Franklin and Yasmin Beaven (Pear Class) Sarah Gilmore (Cherry Class) Karen O’Brien (Palm Class) Cheralyn Baines Dark (Lime Class)            Laura Briggs (Maple Class) and Kate Ward and Jill Eaton (Sycamore Class) Mieka Hamman and Dr Julia Cioroianu (Willow Class) Nikki            Hodgkinson (Horse Chestnut), Becki Sumsion (Elm Class) Mel Bleakley and Amy Andrews (Ash class) Aman Hart (Oak Class)</p>	
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>DS/DT welcomed everyone to the meeting.  <b>Terms of reference was shared discussed and is on the PVG section of the website.</b>            We discussed:            Ways of gathering feedback. We discussed how supportive and helpful Whatsapp can be (albeit mindful of confidentiality and sensitivity too) and discussed encouragement to flag queries directly with the school also. Please contact DS directly by email or drop in to see her if something comes up in between meetings – especially if a parent flags they need support. We can’t help if we don’t know about it.</p>
<p><b>2. Mobile phone usage at Primary School Lime Class/Year Four</b></p>	<p>A parent had raised a project linked to where she lived previously about mobile phone usage in primary aged pupils and the agreement of the community not to let children have mobile phones until Secondary School.            We discussed the school policy which is mobile phones are not allowed in school and if they are brought in an agreement has to be signed and they have to be handed in at the start of the school day. We discussed this subject briefly – including parental responsibility – with school mindful whilst we are here to support parents will have their own views on this. We also discussed our older children walking home and the safety aspect of having a phone with them. We were asked to give this some further thought and we will come back to this – a questionnaire to parents was explored re gathering their thoughts on this subject and other aspects of online safety.</p>

<p><b>3. Willow Class/Year Four</b></p>	<p>Mr Egypt visit positive – really nice to receive some good feedback about what we do – thank you for letting us know this.</p> <p>Swimming pool update: We have received tenders for the workers and we are just waiting to hear the final decision from the loss adjustor with regards to the roof of the pool and how much will be covered. We are hopeful that works will be starting shortly.</p> <p>Football Rota – for playtimes and lunchtimes – DS gave a bit more detail as to how we organise the field space for football – we organise three football games on the main field with our nets every breaktime and lunchtime. This then leaves the playground for other sports and games. These football games are on a rota basis so every year group gets two or three slots a week.</p> <p>Query about the annual school production/shows in Key Stage Two and the opportunity to shine in this: These were the school shows Mr Baker and Mrs Sage used to organise for KS2. Mr Baker (class teacher and drama specialist) retired some years ago and whilst Mrs Sage still takes Key Stage Two for singing every week and does some extra at Christmas – for example Lighting of the Christmas Tree - neither have the capacity to do a show in the way we used to. Instead we do a concert with the rest of Key Stage Two and pick a variety of themes linked to this. If members of staff wanted to put on a school show they would have our full support but we currently don't have anybody in the staff team who would wish to do this.</p>
<p><b>4. Pear Class/Year One</b></p>	<p>Pear Class/Year One: Query around the classroom door as it is closed before 8:50am and this feels unwelcoming. This classroom is the closest to the school gates and once all the children arrive (we advise 8:40am and we have staff on the door to welcome at this point) our staff move away from the door and the register starts at 8:50am. Therefore for safety reasons we close the door.</p> <p>School dinners – confirmation – we remind the children what meal their parent has ordered for them each morning. On the meat free days staff will read out the two options – parents need to make sure they know which option has been chosen for them. We have sent out further reminders that the cut off for ordering a school lunch is midday the day before – most of our parents are ordering a term in advance – therefore lunches cannot be ordered from the classroom.</p> <p>Query around how many Dojo points does my child have? Parents don't have access directly to the school system but please do ask your child (as the Dashboard flashes up as they are awarded these) if you would like to know this.</p>

	<p>Harvest Festival – question around seating of the children:  DS: Harvest Festival is an assembly/service and the orientation of the stage has always been as it was this year apart from last year when we tried it in our Christmas Nativity/Show position. The Christmas Show orientation didn't work well for us at all as the Harvest Festival is not a concert in the same way. The children couldn't see their words very well with all the parents sat in front of them. There was no space for the staff to sit comfortably with the children – especially as this was EYFS first Harvest. Therefore for this reason we ensured the children had the extra space they needed and could easily access the stage from where they were seated. The stage orientation also worked well for Key Stage Two – as again they sang two traditional hymns as part of their service and they were more comfortable doing this seated.</p>
<p><b>5. Apple Class/Year One</b></p>	<p>Football club and the mess of clothing left on the floor once they have changed and gone to club – DS will raise this with the coaches and of course the children taking part in the club! There is no reason why the children can't fold their clothes and put them back in their bag – most walk home in their football kit.</p> <p>Query re pick up for Apple Class – could this be outside the classroom door:  Apple Class is the corner classroom and as it is a Year One class they have a number of resources outside the classroom. Therefore there is not waiting space for thirty parents – hence why parents wait on the path at the top of the steps where they can space right out on the school field. We have laid matting into the grass at the top of the steps so that the field can be used to spread out. We think this is more convenient than walking the children round to the playground. Mrs Sage and Mrs Newark and the Year One staff team will take a look at the waiting area and also traffic from other classes to review this.</p>
<p><b>6. Palm Class/Year Two</b></p>	<p>Could the accelerated reader software be used with children who have completed the RWI scheme in Year One/Two to support them match their book to their reading ability? We are currently looking into this possibility – including the time it would take each pupil to access the software and whether they could do this independently. Last year we did this from Term Five.</p>
<p><b>7. Cherry Class/Year Two</b></p>	<p>School communications with parents:  We discussed the use of My Child at School which is the only communication tool we have at school (other than Tapestry in Early Years for sharing photos etc.) The trust lead for this software led a 'drop in session' for parents who needed some support. DS advised that the newsletter is the 'go to' for a summary of what is going on – that is where information will be signposted therefore parents should prioritise reading this.</p> <p>Query about flu vaccinations as these were very late last year (January.) DT explained the challenges for the nursing team last year which meant schools had a delay as Covid boosters were prioritized. This year our vaccinations are in November.</p>

<p><b>8. Sycamore/Year Three</b></p>	<p>PTA Circus: Could the circus event have been held over two nights so that more friends and families could attend. The Circus could not be booked for two nights. DS also flagged that the organizing committee (which is only small) would not want to be on the school site two nights running until late. Any support PVG could give to encourage parents to help at PTA events much appreciated – the next event is our Fireworks evening.</p>
<p><b>9. Ash and Oak class/Year Six</b></p>	<p>Ash Class/Year Six:  Whole class fairness: whole class held back re beginning of break and lunch – when it is just a few children not doing what has been asked. Mrs Sage discussed this with the class teachers and yes – on occasion this happens – but only when the whole class are not doing what they are asked – for example tidying away.</p> <p>KS2 Cross Country Event: Some of our children in Year Six came back from the event feeling unwell. Could this be at a different time or could the children do some training/preparation?  The distance and timing for our cross country is linked to timings across the sporting calendar. Children from this event go forwards to represent the school at county events following this. Children with medical conditions were taken into consideration – especially our children with asthma. Wellsway Sports Ambassadors and a member of their PE staff were on site to assist – they were encouraging the children to do their very best. We do have a plan for a running club moving forwards but watching our children run and play at playtimes and lunchtimes – they do seem very active, fit children. We also had positive feedback about this event too.</p> <p>Recycling and Sustainability – Mrs Sage attached our action plans as to the sort of areas we are working on as a school this academic year. We will continue to promote these projects via the newsletter – some of the areas are going to be championed by our School Council and Green Team.</p> <p>Came as an AOB:  Query re school teams: With regards to school sporting events and teams we would expect children who attend clubs outside school to attend training sessions at school. An example of this is Year Six football. We have boys attending training after school on a Friday. We would expect a child to attend as much training as possible if they want to represent the school in the team as the children train together. We don't know which children play for clubs outside the school and even if they do in order for a team to gel they need to be training and playing together. The same would go for the netball team - children attend the training with Mrs Hathaway. We pick the teams for matches on rotation so as many children get the opportunity to play in the school teams as possible.</p> <p>Thank you also for the kind comments for staff who give up their own time to lead training outside school hours and organise tournaments etc.</p>

	Homework – DS will raise with the Year Six staff team – please drop in to see the class teacher if your child is not sure about the homework or if they are finding it challenging to schedule.
<b>10. Horse Chestnut/Year Five</b>	Clarification of what Year Five’s are studying and homework (Maths) set: Class teachers held a welcome meeting a few weeks ago and talked this through – the slides outlining this were emailed out to all parents and are on the Class Page of the website. Please let DS know or drop in to see the staff if further details are needed.
<b>11. Wrap around care</b>	Costs of wrap around care had been raised by some of our PVG representatives. At Saltford, Tiddlers Nursery run three different spaces for wrap around care so there is age specific spaces available. Mrs Sage has spoken to Sally (owner of Tiddlers Nursery) to let her know this has been raised – we discussed the cost of staffing these spaces and the challenges of appointing staff too. Parents can also access 20% discount via the Government Gateway scheme which they signpost to parents when they sign up. We had – as you can expect – different opinions from good value for money to higher costs than in other parts of the country. From the school point of view – the offer itself is a good one – three rooms gives large capacity and right through Covid we had reliable wrap around care service for our families.
<b>12. Bumblebees</b>	The EYFS garden is being used as a thoroughfare at pick up time and how this can sometimes cause bumps between older children and the small ones leaving their class. Requested that the older children/parents use the path that takes them behind the raised courtyard onto the EYFS play ground instead – unless they have a pram, in which case to be mindful of parents collecting their Reception children.  Butterflies asked about phonics cards coming home and germ risk. Group discussed about non laminated resources (e.g. books and cards) being very low risk of contamination and the fact that the children are in close contact in the class rooms. Open to the suggestion of taking and bringing home the same pack each night, but noted some logistical issues with 60 packs to sort each day.
<b>Date and time of next meeting:</b>	DS mentioned that if anything comes up in the meantime to contact her directly or drop in to see her face to face – all representatives have her email.  Our next meeting will be towards the end of Term Three – in the meantime please contact me directly if you would like to raise anything at all on behalf of your class.