



Parent Voice Group MEETINGS 2022

Meeting: Thursday 24th November 7.00pm – 8.30 pm via Zoom

ITEMS	OUTCOMES/ACTIONS/DATES
<p>Attendees: Dawn Sage (Headteacher), Dani Taylor (Vice Chair of governors) Rosanna Piper (Bumblebee) Dr Kate Franklin and Yasmin Beaven (Butterfly) Karen O’Brien (Apple Class) Cheralyn Baines Dark (Sycamore Class), Laura Briggs and Kate Ward (Palm Class) Jill Eaton (Cherry Class) Mel Bleakley (Willow Class) Mieka Hamman (Maple) Amy Andrews (Cherry and Horse Chestnut), Dr Laura Chirivi (Pear and Ash class) Aman Hart (Elm Class)</p> <p>Apologies: Esther Kinnear (Bumblebee Class) Becki Sumsion (Lime and Oak) Nikki Hodkinson (Willow)</p>	
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>DS/DT welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Terms of reference was shared discussed and is on the PVG section of the website: www.saltfordschool.org.uk/parent-voice-group/#about-the-pvg</p> <p>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 if something comes up in between meetings – especially if a parent flags they need support.</p>
<p>2. Parent questionnaire discussion and feedback</p>	<p>DS introduced the parent questionnaire from Term 6 – we had 138 responses. We discussed areas that came up in the free text comments – these were very positive and gave us a sense of what we are doing well.</p> <p>Where we had areas for improvement from parents they did balance with their positive comments so the overall experience was not an overall negative one.</p> <p>The following areas are going to be discussed at our next PVG meeting: Extra-Curricular Clubs: A number of comments express a desire for a broader range of clubs. We talked about the size of our school, where to look for information about clubs on our school website (there is a dedicated clubs section under ‘Children’) and we do offer a large number of clubs. Our challenge is sourcing clubs for our younger children – for example Reception. Further SEN provision was also raised. A number of our SEN children do attend clubs – but if a child has an Educational Health Care plan the school does not have funding for their one to one TA to attend the club to support their</p>

	<p>child. Many of our SEN children do attend clubs and parents can be to hand should they need further support. Clubs and provision is an area we are going to come back to at our next meeting.</p> <p>SEN: We talked about the new provision in school since we had had the questionnaire. We have three dedicated SEN spaces – the Wessex Building, Bug Room and the Nest and a new full time pastoral care lead – Mrs Pippa Saunders. Mrs Saunders has completed her thrive training and is also ELSA trained – which is around supporting children’s mental health. Staff received additional training from Lansdown Park Academy at their inset in September around supporting children with trauma – this has been followed up with shared resources. Mrs Godwin – our inclusion leader – is available to discuss involvement of our School Nurse and the process for medical referrals.</p> <p>Communication: We discussed the introduction of My Child at School and the overall functionality. We know that there is the option to receive notification via this software by email OR through a push notification via the app. It is not possible to receive information to both and therefore where parents have tried to do this they have needed to delete the app and restart the process. This does seem to be settling down and we talked about making sure this software is the only communication pathway. We will also explore the use of the notification section of this software which will aid communication reminders.</p> <p>We will ask staff to check their class web pages are accurate – especially PE days – they are currently drafting the welcome back class letters for January which is always a welcome summary of important information coming up.</p>
<p>3. Lunchtimes We still have vacancies for lunchtime playworkers so please do contact us if this is something you would be interested in – it is an excellent start to a career working in a primary school.</p>	<p>Routines: We had a question about our children having a named seat in the Hall. This works really well for us with 430 children to support at lunchtime. Our children have the option of a school dinner or a packed lunch. Having a named seat has meant they can get up and down to collect their meal, clear their plate and there is no confusion where they have to sit when they return (or falling out about someone taking their seat, saving seats and arguing about who sits next to who.) We have seen a huge improvement in how settled the children are at lunchtime, no pushing in the line as they know where they are going and good mixing in classes too. Children further up the school – Year Six for example – do not do this as they attend sport training at lunchtime and therefore we have fewer of them in with us. We will monitor this next term and look to relax this with our older children as and when we feel each class is ready.</p> <p>Our second sitting finishes around 12:55am – this gives the children in Year Four, Five and Six time to go back to the classroom, fill up their water bottle and get ready for afternoon registration and lessons which start at 1pm. By the time the children have come in (the hall is ready no earlier than 12:30) eaten and cleared there is not sufficient time to go back out to the play. We did previously send them back out – but that was when our lunch finished at 1:15pm.</p> <p>Cost of school meals: The cost of a school meal has been £2.60 since 2018 (this was set by Banes catering who were in charge of our kitchen before we academised) and we were contacted by Zest in October to raise our meals to £2.73. This is a 13p price increase in five years. We have had a query to ask about the cost of our meals in comparison with other Futura schools. DS has contacted Zest to flag this with them and ask them to look into this further – our meals are costed based on our kitchen, staffing and pupil numbers. We have also discussed this with our School Governors.</p>

	<p>Wet playtimes and Golden Times: We talked about the resources for this and making sure screen time was minimised so that children can use the collection of board games and other resources in their classrooms. Luckily wet breaks are rare, we would always aim to take the children out suitably dressed – unless it is very heavy rain – so they are able to have some fresh air and movement.</p> <p>Food poisoning outbreak investigation: Parents flagged lots of activity on WhatsApp with regards to this – we had one parent contacted us to flag this with us. Mrs Sage spoke to Edward Snow – the Senior food and safety officer at Banes. 247 children ate the hot dog dinner on Thursday 21st November. These are a pre-cooked vacuum packed product which is reheated in boiling water. He found no link between the reported illnesses and the food consumed at school. His advice was that it could have been a result of Norovirus or another winter vomiting-type illness which can be easily transmitted between children.</p> <p>Hygiene/ paper towels: This is to reassure all our parents that our children on the whole are excellent and we ask them to wash their hands regularly at points throughout the day such as before lunch etc. Our toilets are well stocked with soap and paper towels and there is no reason that a child should wipe their hands on their school top – they have regular reminders. We know you will support us reinforcing this at home with your children.</p>
<p>4. Homework</p>	<p>The use of Seesaw was flagged by our Year Five parents linked to a document format issue. Parents and children are getting frustrated about the fact the children spend more time formatting their answers on Seesaw than answering the questions, and we're wondering if the documents could be shared on another platform or in a different format (i.e. Word), which are easy to modify/use. DS will flag the issue with the Year Five staff.</p>
<p>5. Themed days and charity events</p> <p>PTA events</p>	<p>We talked about aiming to reduce the cost of events – for example Children in Need – not purchasing merchandise etc unless you already have it – but simple cheap dressing up ideas.</p> <p>Fireworks: Parents have asked if tickets can be released in the evening so that working parents are able to purchase them.</p> <p>Cake sales: A discussion was had with regards to letting parents know that if they have a child with an Educational Health Care plan who would be supported coming along when the stall is quieter (due to the fact their child might be triggered by a busy and noisy stall) could be picked up a few minutes earlier and brought along.</p> <p>Christmas Fair: We talked about support for running the stalls during the fair and shared ideas such as shared childcare and the children also helping run the stalls.</p>
<p>6. Rewards systems and children's achievements</p>	<p>We discussed the next steps in our rewards systems – exploring options for rewarding individual achievements. The plan is to explore Class Dojo to see how this system works and how children earn points for their own avatar. This would complement other whole school and class-based systems we have in school.</p> <p>DS also discussed how we highlight children's achievements via the newsletter and in assemblies to inspire other children.</p>

<p>7. Holiday clubs – thoughts and recommendations</p>	<p>We discussed support for parents with childcare. Saltford currently uses Up and Under sport on their premises – we discussed their offer (it isn't just sport – they did a wide range of activities at their October club and we highlighted this as part of the booking process.) They have been asked if they would consider an inset day cover for example. We will also highlight other offers at different sites in the area – for example Wellsway school – as there are only so many providers in our area.</p> <p>We also talked about Chuckles before and after school club. DS has spoken to Sally the owner of Tiddlers nursery about requests for attendance on an hourly rate. There are challenges around this – for example she would need to pay her staff to cover a full session and also potentially sessions running half empty at certain times with not having availability for children who need a full session. She is going to let DS know if this is possible.</p>
<p>8. Travel plan and parking</p>	<p>We talked about our travel plan – encouraging children to walk, scoot and cycle as well as parking at the Crown in the morning and walking in. We also talked about the speed of the cars on the roads adjacent to the school. Keynsham police were present at drop off and pick up and will do further spot checks to ensure parents are stopping on our zig zag lines. We will also discuss with School Council ideas to share with their classes to encourage pupils to support us.</p>
<p>Date and time of next meeting:</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>