

Parent Council Meeting Monday 26th February 2024

Present: Sarah Lailey, Sophie Andersen, Emma Parish, Hollie Appleton, Rebecca Stoop, Rachael Helanor

Apologies: Gabrielle McEwen, Jo Aitken, Rachel Costello, Joanne Pereira, Caireen Reed, Abby Denton, Rachel Fleetwood, Emma Butler

Teaching

Confusion over future teaching changes, parents asking for clarification on what the proposed teaching plan is for all years so they can discuss & reassure children before the term starts.

EP will confirm asap, before the Easter break if not sooner. This will come out on a letter confirming who's teaching which class and which days.

If the teacher is absent, what is the school policy for cover?

For staff illness/absence the school will utilise internal support staff rather than using agency where possible, it helps that the staff are already familiar with the children and understand the ethos of the school. If there aren't enough staff available then classes may be merged.

When teaching changes impact a specific class can the changes be communicated with class parents before being shared with the broader community in the newsletter?

EP will take this into consideration, but at present has no plans to alter the standard school policy that all comms are shared in the newsletter.

School Trips : *Feedback that costs of trips have increased with some destinations taking a long time to get too leaving little time for the activity.*

EP confirmed full year of school trips to be assessed looking at transport & entry costs (NB coach costs have increased significantly in the past 12 months).

Trips will be assessed in relation to curriculum and school will review best options with the aim to keep costs to a minimum. Local options to be reviewed so travel time is kept to a minimum.

PSED Week : *Feedback that parents felt is wasn't very good value for money this year, especially if you have multiple children in the school.*

EP felt the activities provided were in line with previous years.

Notice of upcoming events

Parents asking for more notice for upcoming events & activities so its not last minute.

EP confirmed the rest of the school year plan to be added to newsletter & include costs

World Book Day - This will be celebrated in school, but there will be no dress up, more likely an activity. EP to confirm on newsletter Friday 1st March

Drop off / Late register

Parents asking for a little compassion & flexibility, especially with younger children and those with neuro differences, parking can also often be an issue, with some children being marked late at 8.51am.

At drop off the door is open 8.40-8.50am, if parents are struggling with particular timings please speak to staff or EP directly.

Responsibility for being late - KS2 children to understand their responsibility as they move towards secondary.

Sing up : *Can lyrics be shared pre sing up so parents can help learn at home.*

Yes lyrics can be shared on Dojo.

Afterschool clubs : *Can cricket be on the schedule for summer term?*

Yes this is on the plan for the summer term.

Head Lice : *Can a communication be sent out when there are a number of cases in a class?*

A reminder to check children's hair can be added to the newsletter, but it is parents responsibility to choose the best method of treatment.

School Grid : *Cannot order meals if you have no funds, can no longer top up accounts by direct debit?*

There must be funds in the account before ordering meals. If the account is in deficit when children are trying to order school currently cover this so children are not left hungry. Parents need to ensure their account has sufficient funds, a low funds email notification can be set up as a reminder. This system is independent of the school but feedback can be sent directly to the company at support@schoolgrid.co.uk.

Spellings : *Can spellings be shared on the 1st day of term on Dojo?*

Spellings are stuck into the yellow reading book at the beginning of each term.

CO2 Monitors : *Concern that co2 levels increasing with windows closed over the winter months*

EP confirmed all classrooms have co2 monitors.

Parent Council Survey : *Is it possible for this to be open at all times?*

The link is always open and can be used at any time, it is shared regularly in class whatsApps or can be found through the link on the website, parents can also email queries direct to parentcouncil@basildonprimary.org.uk.

Class WhatsApp groups : *EP raised concerns that parents of children that have left the school are still on the whatsApp groups.*

When children have left the school class reps to ensure the parents are removed from the groups. These groups are independent of school. They are for parents, run by parents so there is no GDPR breach.

Update on forest school

Now finished but is still very wet & muddy. There is woodchip to go down around the edges then it will be completed. Opening ceremony is planned in May when the weather is better.

Update on footpath

The Local Authority has acknowledged the footpath is a concern and are looking at possibilities of fencing.

EP is liaising with them & chasing for an update or planned date of any works.

Future meetings

It was agreed to reduce the frequency of PC meetings to once a term.

Therefore the April meeting has been cancelled, next meeting Wednesday 5th June.

EM to suggest a pre-meet date.

Wednesday 17 January 8.50am : JP Minutes

Monday 26 February 2.30pm : SA Minutes

Tuesday 23 April 2.30pm : CANCELLED

Wednesday 5 June 8.50am : Rebecca S Minutes

Monday 1 July 8.50am

It was agreed that class reps would share responsibility for the minutes for these meetings.