

Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 17 January 2024

Year group	Class	Parent rep 1 name	Parent rep 2 name
Nursery	Bears	Hollie Appleton (Ted)	
Reception	Tigers	Joanne Pereira (Alice)	
Year 1	Lemurs	Rebecca Stoop (Franca)	
Year 2	Pandas	Rachel Costello (Ava)	
Year 3	Leopards	Sophie Andersen (Lily)	Jo Aitken (Tilly)
Year 4	Lions	Rachel Fleetwood (Imogen)	Gabrielle McEwen (Isla)
Year 5	Wolves	Abby Denton (Summer)	Emma Butler (Lacey)
Year 6	Eagles	Sarah Lailey (Elsie)	
SENCO		Caireen Reed (George)	Rachel Costello (Leo)

Present: Hollie Appleton, Rachel Fleetwood, Sarah Lailey, Emma Parish, Joanne Pereira, Caireen Reed, Emma Butler, Abby Denton

Apologies: Rebecca Stoop, Rachel Costello, Gabrielle McEwen, Sophie Andersen, Jo Aitken

Christmas

Feedback around the lead up to Christmas was that it was a successful, good end of term. Feedback queried if there needs to be a Christmas Sing Up at such a busy time of year. It was agreed that next year, there will be no Christmas Sing Up.

Illness and Attendance

There was a request for clarification around sickness policy.

If a child has sickness or diarrhoea there must be 48 hr clear prior to their return.

In terms of attendance, when emailing to notify the school of an absence, parents should provide a reason for the absence or they may be asked to provide a reason.

If the school is made aware of a number of children with the same illness, this is then shared with all of the parents.

Footpath

Following the audit by the Local Authority in November, they flagged the footpath as a concern and are looking into the possibility of providing a fence around the boundary of the school. EP is following up.

Update on Forest School

The original provider was taking too long to set a date for work to commence to clear the site.

The BSA and EP will speak to the company that can do the whole project (the previous provider was only able to do part) to confirm the quotes. Given the location of the forest school, the work can be done during term time. EP understands that a date for commencement of work is imminent.

Portable Staging for Sing Up

Feedback requested a stage for Sing Up/performances allowing parents to have a view of all children during performances. The school already has a stage that is used for nativity performances. It takes a long time to erect and then impacts lunches/PE and it is therefore not feasible to put up the stage for each Sing Up. In terms of purchasing a new stage, the school does not have the budget for this. It was agreed that each Sing Up should be recorded (from a higher vantage point) then circulated around the relevant class WhatsApp group.

Star of the Week/Therapeutic School

Question regarding rotating star of the week over the academic year. EP confirmed that each child is awarded Star of the Week over the academic year. This does not necessarily mean that each child will be awarded the Star every term.

This is awarded as fairly as possible and teachers look to rotate across the academic group. Basildon is a therapeutic school and this is why "extrinsic awards" are kept to a minimum but the Council agreed it's also nice for the children to receive recognition in the form of Star of the Week.

Spelling

Feedback that Parents would like to be able to help more with spelling.

A copy of the spelling is handed out in the yellow reading record. It is also posted on Class DoJo.

Projects/School Books

There has been a request for the school to provide more time for projects and reading books over the holiday. EP agreed that this would be addressed.

BSA

A request for fewer communications from the BSA or if they could be condensed. BSA will take this into consideration but given we have just had the Christmas period, communications will have been more frequent during such a busy time.

Some feedback queried the frequency of the BSA events. CR explained again that attendance at BSA events is voluntary. The BSA events are well attended and raise a considerable sum for the school. It was noted how many entries there are for the baking competition each time. One parent queried whether the budget provided by the BSA for the class reps for the decorations, game and prize for the Christmas fair was enough. CR encourages all reps to come to CR directly should they require a slightly bigger budget and this would be accommodated.

CR will look into a separate BSA letter (termly) on a Monday which would be in addition to the weekly school newsletter. It is hoped that this will be a good way to promote BSA events.

Sweet Deserts at lunch

This was raised again – please see previous Council minutes where this was addressed.

Basildon Extra

Feedback around the new booking system is positive.

There has been a request for a breakdown of sessions and costings for Basildon Extra. EP confirmed that the school is looking into a new system that will provide this and run alongside the existing system.

Deterioration in Behaviour KS2

Feedback received around increased bad language and behaviour in KS2 years.

EP confirmed that where parents have concerns about behaviour, they should raise that with the respective class teacher. EP confirmed that any reported bad behaviour/language would be addressed by the school with the parents concerned.

Mrs Hutchinson- Maternity cover

EP confirmed that maternity cover for Mrs Hutchinson will be communicated to the parents of her class.

School Council Survey/Email

Feedback received asked if there is an email instead of the survey. Confirmed that there is an email and this is communicated with the WhatsApp announcing the next Council Meeting.

AoB

- Queried whether the school could look into including coats of bright/high visibility colours in the school uniform to increase visibility of the children walking/cycling to school. EP confirmed the school will look into this.
- Positive feedback that the Class Newsletters went out early in the term.

Future meetings

Monday 26 February 2.30pm

Tuesday 23 April 2.30pm

Wednesday 5 June 8.50am

Monday 1 July 8.50am