

**Parent Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday 7 November 2023**

| Year group | Class    | Parent rep 1 name         | Parent rep 2 name       |
|------------|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nursery    | Bears    | Hollie Appleton (Ted)     |                         |
| Reception  | Tigers   | Joanne Pereira (Alice)    | Kathryn White (Olly)    |
| Year 1     | Lemurs   | Rebecca Stoop (Franca)    |                         |
| Year 2     | Pandas   | Kathryn White (Annabella) | 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:** Jo Aitken, Hollie Appleton, Emma Butler, Rachel Costello, Rachel Fleetwood, Sarah Lailey, Emma Parish, Joanne Pereira, Caireen Reed, Rebecca Stoop

**Apologies:** Sophie Andersen, Abby Denton, Gabrielle McEwen, Kathryn White

**Football fundraiser**

There had been some confusion from children and parents regarding the football fundraiser form which children had brought home last week. There was subsequently some clarification about this in the weekly newsletter, although it did not explain that 50% of the funds raised go to the company running the event. EP confirmed this is a totally voluntary event, there is no obligation for children to take part and that it had come about from the Federation and we would be able to give feedback on this. The school is very aware that alongside it being the run up to Christmas, parents are being asked to contribute for various trips etc as well as it being a busy time for BSA events.

**Sing Up**

A small number of parents had queried why EP didn't lead Sing Up. EP explained that the role of running such events will be shared between the Head of School and Director of Primaries.

**Space in playground**

It was commented that a lack of space in the playground meant that older years running about at breaktime to burn energy could impact on younger years' games. EP explained that the only time the whole school were together on the playground is the morning break of 15 minutes. Lunch time is staggered between eating lunch in the hall and being on the playground and afternoon break time is flexible decided by the teachers. Other parents felt that the school is lucky in terms of the outside space available.

### **Outdoor shoes**

A suggestion had been made that children could have outdoor shoes to enable them to play on the grassy areas of the playground and the field even when the ground is wet/muddy. EP said this would be considered but noted concerns relating to the time it would take for children to put on and off such shoes, taking away from the amount of time they would have to play outside, and the inevitable rise in lost property if this were to happen. It would be explored whether it would be possible for KS2 only to do this.

### **Wet break/lunch time and time on devices/watching TV**

Clarification was asked regarding what happens during wet break/lunch times and if there were opportunities for children to play to burn off energy rather than sit and watch tv or be on devices. EP explained that children always get the opportunity to play games, not just watch a screen. At lunch times classes could be grouped together so one room could contain games/Lego etc for playing and the other room could show a film. The teachers want to get the children outside as often as they can and they will go out in slight rain/drizzle as much as possible.

### **Update on forest school**

Still no date for the work to begin - EP has chased the company after signing the agreement for the work and the Business Manager from the Downs will also chase this up to get it booked in. Work to clear the site can begin at any time during term time or holidays and it is hoped this can begin as soon as possible.

### **Update on footpath**

EP updated following a health and safety meeting with the council who have a provisional plan for a fence to be installed as previously discussed but this does include a minor diversion of the footpath. RS explained that she had met with Laura Coyle, the new Liberal Democrat councillor, during the summer to explain the situation and she had indicated she would support the plan to reroute the footpath but would need to consult first. RF noted that the Parish Council summary in this month's Country Neighbour magazine included a reference to the fact that the school were expected to apply to reroute the path due to safeguarding concerns. EP also mentioned that there would be a health and safety audit of the school by the council taking place next week which would flag the footpath as a concern.

### **Website**

RF noted that the Parent Council section of the website needs updating and will draft some text and share with class reps.

### **Lost property**

RF asked for clarification for parents regarding lost property. EP explained that anything found with a name label is handed back directly to the child. Anything which doesn't have a label is put in a box in reception which can be checked at any time. It was suggested that this box is also available to check when the BSA sells hot chocolates/doughnuts in the hall after school on some Fridays.

**Class feedback:****Tigers**

There was some parent feedback regarding puddings at lunch time questioning what was available and how healthy it was, given that children are able to choose themselves. EP explained that there is not an option to select a pudding in advance due to the way the catering company works and that they have to operate within food standards meaning that pudding choices do have to be healthy and there will be limits on the amount of sugar used. It is possible for parents to see the pudding options in advance on the School Grid website and to check the ingredients.

**Pandas**

There was some feedback regarding the proposed fence along the footpath to secure the school grounds, questioning how it would make the school look.

The issue of the children watching Newsround was also raised, with parents asking for advance notice that they would be doing so to be prepared for any questions the children may ask at home afterwards. EP explained that it is a version for schools, not the same as the version that is televised, and that teachers fully watch an episode before showing it to their class to check if it is suitable.

**AOB**

Dates and times for Christmas events will be in this week's newsletter.

The BSA will be running the St Stephens cafe on Monday 13 November and Monday 11 December.

**Future meetings**

Wednesday 17 January 8.50am

Monday 26 February 2.30pm

Tuesday 23 April 2.30pm

Wednesday 5 June 8.50am

Monday 1 July 8.50am

It was agreed that class reps would share responsibility for the minutes for these meetings, with JP volunteering to do the January meeting.