

PVG Meeting



Wednesday 24 January 2018

1. **Welcome** - Parents welcomed to the meeting by Kate who thanked them for attending and outlined her plans to hold the meetings termly. Kate also outlined her vision to use the meetings for not only listening to the views of the parents but also to take school ideas to the parents for their input and suggestions. It was outlined that these meetings would not be used to discuss any issues relating to class teachers or staff nor would it be appropriate to discuss individual pupils - please discuss these matters direct with Kate.
2. **Dogs** - Parents are concerned that dogs are being tied up at the main entrance of the school and even carried onto school premises.
Action: School to issue guidance to parents via the newsletter regarding this issue.
3. **Pirate Ship** - A permanent home has yet to be found for the pirate ship due to health and safety concerns. Regulations state that it needs to be placed on a soft surface but this can be expensive. Bark could be considered but this would need to be of suitable depth and position. Careful consideration on the placing of this will be made by the school and communicated to parents for assistance in moving the ship to its permanent home.
4. **Christmas Cards** - This was considered to be a great idea to look into but to ensure the balance of work involved doesn't outweigh the potential benefit.
Action: Fundraising team to look into this.
5. **Toilets** - Some parents raised concerns about of the cleanliness of the toilets. Parents were reassured that pupil toilets were cleaned daily and although some are in need of upgrading, they are clean. It was also discussed that cleaning rotas were not being signed, however it was noted that cleaners do not have rotas as they have their own designated areas to clean.
Action: Kate to do spot checks of the toilets.
6. **Lunch n Learn** – A few parents have complained that the these events are being held on the same day of the week and asked if they can be mixed up and held on different days.
Action: School to check future dates and publish in the newsletter.
7. **Christmas Play** - concern was raised as parents informed the meeting that it had previously been agreed there would be a suitable gap in between the productions and that they would not be held so early in the week. Kate explained that she was unaware of this and as she was new to the school was reluctant to change the format from previous years but to see how it ran and then make a decision on future productions. Following this, her two main areas of concern are - it is too long and also wrong time of the year.

Kate outlined some future ideas of holding a nativity at Christmas and then to possibly have either one or two productions (possibly linked to the curriculum) on a Friday in July with a view to moving this to a larger venue, possibly in the St Austell or Bodmin area to ensure that everyone who wanted to come could get tickets. Concern was raised as to whether parents would be happy to move out of Fowey for the production but if the venue was suitable ie similar to The Keay Theatre then this may work well.

It was discussed how the school used to hold Class Assemblies and parents were invited in to watch these. Parents would be keen for these to be held again and would also like to see the Drama Club reinstated.

Action: Kate to look into this and discuss with class teachers.

8. **Attendance** - Parents raised concern about the publishing of attendance figures in the newsletter and questioned if it is appropriate as they claimed it just created anger amongst some parents.

Kate advised the meeting that attendance is a real concern for the school as current figures are significantly below the national average and this must improve. It was explained how continual absence becomes a problem for the children's learning and creates difficulty for them when missing learning sessions which aren't covered again. It was agreed that parents should be encouraged to, where possible, make medical appointments outside of the school day.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to hold an attendance briefing for parents to explain the issues and reasons regarding the importance of attendance and also to encourage ways in which this can be improved.

Following a meeting with an Ofsted Inspector on Monday, both Kate and Chris Williams explained that too many term time holidays and too many little absence patterns would indicate to Ofsted that children weren't happy at school so this issue does need to be improved.

Rewards for attendance was discussed in depth as it was viewed that this is often unfair for the children who were genuinely poorly or children who can only attend certain medical appointments during the school day.

It was also highlighted that due to the area there were a number of parents who have seasonal work and need to take holidays during term time. It was asked if the school could possibly group some of the inset days together near a school holiday to enable parents to have the opportunity to have a break and also in the hope that costs would be significantly cheaper.

Action: School to look into the feasibility of doing this.

9. **Morning Routine** – A PVG parent has raised concerns around the safety of the current morning arrangements where lots of parents are in the building with access to everyone's children. This parent reported feeling uncomfortable that people they don't know have access to their child and that some children are feeling uncomfortable participating in wake and shake with other parents watching. Another parent raised that it is very difficult for them to get to work in the morning as they feel a pressure to stay with their child, as do other parents. There was some discussion as to how best to manage this situation with Kate saying that she has big concerns regarding the current morning routine as there are no clear boundaries as to when the child becomes the responsibility of the teacher. With effect from half term the same procedures when collecting children at the end of the end will also be followed when dropping off children, ie teacher to stand in doorway to welcome the child. Not only does this improve the safety of the children it also teaches independence.

Action: Kate to talk to teachers to clarify procedures and notify parents.

10. **Registration Bell** – Parents raised concerns that registers were being taken before the bell. It was agreed that hopefully the new morning routine procedures would eliminate this issue.

11. **Newsletters by Email** – Following discussion it was agreed that newsletters could be communicated by email thus reducing printing costs for the school. It was also agreed not to publish future newsletters on Facebook.

Action: School to notify parents that this would be introduced after February half term and make paper copies available to be collected from the School Office

It was also requested that text reminders could be reintroduced as parents found this useful.

Action: School to look into re-introducing this.

12. **AOB – Parking** – Parents were concerned about parking outside the school, in particular the field entrance opposite and the zig zag area immediately outside the school. It was mentioned that previously cones were placed in these areas to deter parents from parking here.

Action: School to look for cones previously used.