



PVG Meeting (1st November 2018)

Minutes

Present:

Kate Sicolo (Head)
Victoria Clark
Rebecca Davidson
Victoria Radford
Claire Hoddinott
Jodie Morcom

Kay Peacey (Vice chair of governors)

Apologies from Paul Hupfield.

1. New Curriculum

Very positive feedback from children reported, along with a generally high level of excitement, engagement and learning. Staff have been working very hard and report enthused children, and fewer behaviour issues in the afternoon sessions. Overall, feedback is very positive. Parents and children like the mixed age groupings. The new mini bus will soon be available for use on related trips, just waiting for availability of training for drivers. **Now booked for 19th November!**

2. Class Contributions

45% of class contributions have been received for this term's requested contributions. To continue level of trips and activities this would need to increase to 75%. Parents had asked for single lump sum request per term rather than multiple smaller requests, but this change has resulted in significantly lower receipts.

ParentPay allows the option to make smaller payments to spread the cost, but many parents unaware of this.

Communication with parents about payment options and the intended usage of the contributions could be improved, as there had been uncertainty on these points. The contributions receipts are all going directly to pay for activities and trips related to the project curriculum. Posters on the main school doors give details for individual classes.

Also confusion reported about multiple channels of communication (eg text, letter, email, noticeboard) leading to not being able to find the messages.

Contribution request for next term will be going out soon and it's important that receipts increase or the level of activities and trips for next term will have to be reduced from the planned level.

ACTIONS:

- Message boards planned for classroom doors to help communication, as well as letters sent home.
- Further emails to go out to parents to clarify and direct to FAQs provided
- Channels of communication to be clarified, with encouragement and support for all parents to make use of the E-Schools App, which acts as a communication hub and includes copies of all emails, newsletters etc.
- Parents report glitches with e-schools app – office to provide support where needed to help parents get up and running with using the app.

- Facebook page to include posts showing how the contributions have been used so far, and what they will fund for the next term.

3. Bike/Scooter Parking

Roof repairs already planned and should happen soon. More racks also planned, and options for scooter specific racks will be investigated, funding dependant.

4. Access by Lantic Classroom

Reports from parents that access is still a problem on the corner by Lantic. The wooden gate is still needed and has to stay. Improvements to paving may help.

ACTION:

- Trial a one-way system around the outside of the school to reduce the pressure and obstruction at the pinch point by Lantic. Disabled children and parent/guardians to be excused the one way as needed.

5. Religious Celebrations

Parents had asked about plans for Harvest, Christmas and Easter celebrations.

Christmas and Easter celebrations will be held in Fowey church, and the Lantic nativity play will be in the church this year. Celebrations for Divali planned in-school, and Harvest in-school for next year as well.

6. Christmas/ Summer Productions

There will be Summer productions at the end of the Summer term. A KS2 play with a strong focus on Year 6 pupils, and other pupils involved more than in previous years with performance at Fowey River Academy. A KS1 production with performance in the amphitheatre. Aim is to have a spread of performance opportunities over their time at the school, and to be able to devote lots of time to it at the end of the school year.

7. Wake and Shake

No plans to re-start wake and shake at this time. It was stopped due to changes in morning routine to improve the start of the day for the children and to ensure staff are available at classroom doors to talk to parents. Lantic do PE first thing, other year groups do handwriting practise. Staff and children report a smooth, relaxed and focussed start to the day.

8. Access to classrooms for Parents

Parents are welcomed into classrooms at regular points (parents evenings, lunch and learn, project presentation days, special events such as Cartonera festival). Parents are also welcome to request permission from staff to go in at other times if needed (for instance to search for mislaid PE kit in a cloakroom) so please ask if you need to come in outside of the regular invitations to parents.

Cloakroom cleanups are being implemented at the end of each half term, with all belonging returned to children to take home, and unclaimed items made available at reception for claiming.

Donations recently of PE kits and spare clothing much appreciated. Stocks are good now for PE kit. FunDraisers are planning to donate a quantity of underwear to bolster supplies of spares.

9. New school Facebook Page

This has been well received. Parents enjoy seeing pictures and videos from trips and activities. Plans are in place to post more regularly and to make use of the Events feature to share public events such as open days or presentation days. Wider community is welcoming the more open presence of the primary school.

10. Pupil Numbers

The school needs more pupils over the next two years across all year groups to sustain funding levels. 10 children equate to £42k in funding. The school has places available in all year groups. The head asked for some thought to be given to possible ways to encourage new pupils in the wider area.

Suggestion to focus on parents working in Fowey but living elsewhere as there may be a mistaken assumption that places are hard to come by for out of area residents. This is not an issue in Fowey as there is spare capacity in the school.

Parents encouraged to spread the word in their social networks.

11. KS2 Outdoor Area and new equipment

Plans for new play equipment shared by the head. Trail-style equipment, with pieces being ordered and installed in stages the first stage costing £6.6k. The previous area of pond/adventure/willow to become the EYFS exclusive area. KS1 playground improvements and KS2 equipment all planned for improvement.

Applications for funding from Wooden Spoon and Thomas Cook have gone in for grant funding for fully accessible play equipment for our wheelchair using pupils to be able to fully participate in active play.

12. FA funding bid

A very large funding bid is going in for substantial grant from the FA for a large all-weather floodlit surface in the school grounds. This would be a community facility, available to rent outside of school hours. Benefit would include removal of all uneven paving around the school, making disabled access vastly better.

Expressions of support are invited from the community. Please email admin@fowey.sch.org with your supporting message. More messages of support mean the application is more likely to succeed.

Something simple of the form "If the all-weather floodlit area were available in Fowey we would be interested in using it for our football training once a week" is sufficient, and no commitment or firm undertaking is required.

13. Book changing

Some parents would like reading books changed more frequently. The present system works best where the reading diary is completed daily – where this is happening books are changed reliably, so parents are encouraged to fill out the daily reading diary entry. There are some differences across the school in how staff manage book changing and this may be causing some of the confusion

14. Birthday Sweets

Many parents would prefer that sweets not be handed out for birthdays of staff and children, and also that sweets should not be used as behaviour incentive.

To support parent choice and healthy relationships with food, the PVG voted to trial a ban on handing out of sweets at birthdays.

The headlines version:

- The new project-based curriculum is ace!
- Class contributions really do go on trips and activities, and we really do need more parents to pay them please
- **Did you know?? You can pay in instalments on ParentPay to spread the cost however you prefer**
- Bike and scooter parking will be fixed and improved soon
- We're going to be trying out a one-way system round the school at pick up

- Christmas and Easter will be celebrated in the church, and Lantic nativity is happening in the church too
- School productions will be at end of Summer term with opportunities for all but focus on year 6 pupils
- Cloakroom cleanups will happen every half term but ask if you need to get in to hunt for something
- There's a school Facebook page now <https://www.facebook.com/FoweyPrimarySchool/>
- We need more pupils in all year groups - tell your friends, neighbours, colleagues that there is space in our lovely school
- More wonderful new play equipment is on its way!
- There's a BIG funding bid going in to the FA for an all-weather floodlit outdoor space at the school to include community use – please send messages of support to admin@fowey.sch.org and spread the word in the community – the more support messages the better
- Book changing happens reliably if reading diaries are filled out daily so make the time to scribble your initials in and say where your child read up to
- Birthday sweets – kids love them, parents not so much. We're trialling a ban on handing out sweets at request of the PVG, so please don't send them in with your children.