

Tilston School - Parent Council Meeting

Date: 14/11/23

Time: 3.30-4.30pm

Attended by:	School: Mrs Mort, Mrs Huxtable Parent Council Representatives: YR - Claire Little Yr1 - Claire Teasdale Yr3 - Laura Ruffle Yr4 - Lucy Mills Yr6 - Sarah Latham Chair: Victoria Rice
Absent from meeting:	YR - Laura Williams Yr1 - Siobhan Norris Yr2 - Sarah Crabb Yr 5 - Currently no rep Yr6 - Claire Allwood
Agenda points & actions:	<p>Reception: Positives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stay & Play, library time, forest school.- Buddy system- Staff being present at drop off/pick up, parents made to feel welcome. Mrs Farmer in particular.- Evenings set aside for phonics and maths. <p>To discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• mix up the days for stay and play and library time for working parents <p>Mrs Edwards is happy to look at this and try different times from the Spring term. Worship may need to be rearranged to allow it on certain days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• could they do forest school more than 3 weeks per term <p>Camp Curiosity is a big cost to the school and is currently 50% funded by the TSA. To increase it would need additional funds. Agree that although it is not part of the national curriculum, school feel it is really important which is why they keep it going. Could look at offering Forest school as an after school club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• jacket potatoes (the source of the biggest discussion on the group!!!) "can they encourage a bit more diversity in what they choose at lunch so children aren't having a jacket potato every day." (Lots of parents saying their child is having a JP every day) <p>Looking to reintroduce the deli option as an alternative to jacket potato, but currently discussing this with the company who provide the meals. Last term it was decided that the size of the deli option wasn't good value compared to other meals. An alternative could be baguette, but this is TBC. The food company need ½ terms notice, so a change is likely to be Spring term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• some parents want the deli option brought back <p>See above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A suggestion of an online system for choosing lunches for our children in advance. <p>Looking into trailing this via School Money. It could be an option, but it will slow down the queues, and some children may change their minds after parents have selected online. Needs to be investigated a bit more.</p>

Year 1:

To discuss:

- We really like the buddy system, and that children get a buddy in year 1 as well as reception. Would you consider making year 5 the buddies so that the little ones have two years with them rather than just one?

Will consider this, but currently felt that it is a lot of effort for year 6 and if they have to do two years, it would be a bit much. Year 6 is a good time because of the focus on being a young leader.

- Why has PE been cut to once a week this term when before half term they had two sessions plus an outdoor learning session. Our children really enjoyed the outdoor learning last term!

An oversight, and apologies from school. This was a timetabling error, and although they are missing a lesson of PE during this half term, They are having the required amount of time over the full term. It will be back to normal for the Spring term.

- Can parents evening be (re)looked at and it made more private? some parents feel conversations can be overheard and it is difficult to discuss more sensitive issues.

Unfortunately, due to previous issues when having a private parents evening (in separate rooms,) a public setting is safeguarding for staff. Will look at having some slots as an online parents evening as an alternative to sitting in the hall.

- What is football free Friday and why?

Fridays are football free. This is because football doesn't suit some children, so to allow them to mix in different groups and play different games, they have a break from football for one day. Children who like playing football can play on M/T/W/T.

- Could you explain how the school committee is formed, when this happened and how children are selected for the role?

Reps are voted for (anonymously) by their class mates. Children who wish to be a member of the committee are encouraged to make a speech which they can prepare in advance. This is to support British values of democracy and voting which children are required to learn about. Children are members for one term, and they can not put themselves forward for the school committee again until year 6. This is so that lots of children get a turn.

- If someone misses the school gates, what should we do if no staff to open door at 8.50am to get into classrooms?

Gates are open from 8.40, although you are welcome to come onto the yard before they open so that children can come straight in. When gates close at 8.50 teaching staff are in the classrooms with children and Mrs Mort and Mrs Farmer lock the gates and doors either side and make their way back into the building. It typically only takes a few minutes, so if anyone is late, they should wait at the front door for Mrs Mort/Mrs Farmer to get back to the office.

Year 2:

To discuss:

- School lunch menu. Lack of choice is a problem. Removal of deli to jacket pots is not going down well forcing children to bring in packed lunches.

See previous answer (reception).

- More after school clubs for younger children. With more range of after school clubs which are not just sport related; cooking/sewing etc

Outside provider, Ditz Rose is currently being used for a creative club. TA's and teachers aren't expected to run a club, and school have to pay them to stay on, so it depends on their availability. Ofsted praised Tilston on the range of clubs for a small school, and money is allocated for clubs. Parents are welcome to come in to run clubs, they do not need to be qualified in a subject, just need willingness and a DBS check (which school can happily arrange). There is less uptake on clubs in KS1 and it has to be viable for them to run.

- KS1 and KS2 clubs running at same time to avoid double pick up clashes.

There can only be one sports club run at a time, this is because in wet weather there is only the hall that can be used. Without more indoor space, it isn't possible unfortunately.

- Reinstatement of the daily mile.

After doing this for 2 years, there was no impact on the children, and it was not enjoyable for most. Some children aren't able to take part due to disabilities and it is very important for Tilston to be inclusive to all, so it has been decided not to take part. There are no other schools in the local area who take part in the daily mile, and the national curriculum doesn't allow time for it. Tilston is happy to currently give the children 2 hours of PE which is well above the recommendation, along with plenty of outside play for fresh air.

- Can we use some of playground as an allotment so the children can grow plants/veg etc? Maybe tie in with a gardening club?

We do already have one, and through the newsletter lots of parents have provided seeds and plants. Another request will no doubt go out in the new year. Camp Curiosity and Mrs Heggerty are looking at doing some cooking with the produce.

- Why do year 2 have reduced PE sessions this term? Can they not have two as standard?

See previous answer (year 1).

Year 3:

Positives:

- Teaching staff are wonderful
- TT Rockstars works well and makes learning fun with a competitive element
- School is inclusive and nurturing and children are accepting of others
- Hockey club was great
- School dinner menu is much better this year

To discuss:

- Reinstatement of the deli option. The only option for anyone who doesn't want the main option is a jacket potato, and some children now end up having a jacket potato most days!

See previous answer (reception).

- More activity each day e.g. the daily mile or similar? With outdoor learning taking up a PE slot each week during some terms, there is only one PE session per week sometimes. Is this enough physical activity?

See previous answers (year 2).

- More spaces in after-school club as demand often outstrips supply, 16 spaces doesn't appear to be enough. Also, it would be great to have the after-school club running until 6pm.

There is regularly availability when parents release slots, but it will be looked at again to see if parents can book further ahead. Ratio is 1:8 because children in the nursery and reception are able to attend. So it is a staffing and cost issue. Suggested that a note in the newsletter could be added when there is availability or cancellations.

- A reminder in the last newsletter of each half term about when PE and outdoor learning is for each class.

School will try to do this. Reps will also try and put reminders on class whatsapp groups. The information is always available to the school website for parents to check there.

- It would be great if more children could be included in sports competitions e.g. inter-school, Heber etc. It seems to be more geared towards winning the competitions than giving children the experience, so often it is the same children representing the school and others never get the chance.

The sports partnership is over £1000 to be part of, and as a competitive school, it would be great to win! This is a stepping stone to high school, particularly in KS2, when children are selected for teams solely on ability. Previously the school would take a non-competitive team, but this is disheartening for the children attending. In KS1 it is more about taking part, and having a go if they are willing.

- How much is the news watched/discussed? We adults often consume the news on our phones rather than 'watching the news' like our parents' generation did so many children just don't see the news - what goes on around the world and in the UK, reports and discussions, weather forecasts (maps), general knowledge of geography, how people live etc.

It is felt that this is for parents to decide how much, and which news items they feel their children can and should be made aware of.

- When the children move tables in class, is there academic reasoning behind this, or is it to just mix up who they sit with? For some children this can be a bit of an ordeal so just wondering about reasons.

Sometimes this is related to ability, but not often. They are usually putting children together who need support, or work well together. Sometimes it is to move children apart who are distracting each other. If a child is distressed by anything, please speak to a teacher in case it is not apparent to them.

Year 4:

Positives:

- The sports competitions at Heber are great, a boost to confidence, and teachers do a great job of organising.
- The newsletter is brilliant for communicating with parents.

To discuss:

- ASC provision, can it be expanded?

See previous answers (year 3).

- Meal portions at lunch seem too small, children are complaining they're still hungry! Also deli option has changed from sandwich or jacket to jacket only which many children don't like.

See previous answers (reception). Children are offered unlimited salad and bread, and the meals are nutritionally checked. There is always a lot of waste sadly.

- Would like to see return of the daily mile. Most parents don't feel there is not enough opportunity during the school day for children to exercise and think their children would concentrate better if they had movement/exercise breaks.

See previous answers (year 2).

- Please can the newsletter at the end of each half term include each classes pe and outdoor learning days for the next half term? Just to ease the 6 weekly search for info on what they have to wear each day!

See previous answers (year 3), but the information is always on the class pages on the website.

- Wet play- if it's raining what's the protocol? If they have waterproofs are they allowed to go out anyway?

If the children have a coat, then yes they can definitely go outside. It is always the school's preference for children to go outside, which is why wellies should also be provided (and left in school). There are areas with canopies and unless there are weather warnings, children can go out.

- Can school clarify the behaviour policy for disruptive behaviour during lessons, not getting work finished etc and the threat of missing break times?

The behaviour policy is on the website for anyone to look at. There are 4 warnings, before any missed break. The maximum amount of time missed would be 5 minutes. School believes in praising in public, and reminding in private.

- Non sporty clubs?

See previous answers (year 2).

	<p>Year 6: To discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a mobile swimming pool that goes around the schools, is it possible for tilston to have it. Apparently it stays at the school for a month at a time. <p>This would be fantastic but as a small school it wouldn't be possible due to the costs. Having looked into it, the hire is 5.5k for a month, but the cost of the water, electricity etc would also be very high. Christleton is a much cheaper option due to very reasonable prices from them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSA questions <p>Mrs Mort will address those directly.</p>
Next meeting:	Due after February half term, date TBC.
Additional notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive feedback from reps that it is helpful to hear directly for Mrs Mort on the subjects raised, it makes the responses/reasoning much easier to understand. - Mrs Mort feels the response to the meeting was the most positive that they had, and looks forward to the next meeting with the parent reps. - Meeting kept to an hour, which was great for all parties. We will try to alternative the day to allow for people's varied working days. - Ideally would like a parent from year 5, as they are not currently represented.