

PARENT FORUM

TACOLNESTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

25th February 2020

Attended by:

Laura Green – Head Teacher
Robert Culyer – Chair of Governors
Rachel Mitchell
Karen Johnson
Rowan Easter

Items Discussed:

Clubs and Wrap Around Care:

Laura explained that we surveyed the children about clubs that they would like to have and the overwhelming result was that they would like to have a gymnastics club. We arranged for gym club to be run by Premier Sport after school on Thursdays but they made a mistake with our booking and can only offer before school sessions this term. They should be able to offer after school sessions in the summer term. At present, there are only about 3 children attending the club. The club is open to all ages and we are hoping that more children will sign up.

We have been exploring the possibility of offering wrap around care and have sent a survey to parents/carers to assess whether there is enough interest. If there is enough interest, we hope to set this up for September 2020.

Carol Service:

Parents felt that the carol service was one of the best we have had. They liked the fact that the children were able to make their own costumes during school time.

Backpacks:

Laura asked what the feeling was about us banning backpacks from September 2020. Parents said that they had thought that backpacks weren't allowed anyway due to space issues.

Reading Challenge:

Laura asked for the parents' views of the Reading Challenge. Parents said that it had made them more conscious of the need to read with their children. Their children were 'nagging' them to read with them and were eager to know what the next challenge will be. Laura explained that Mrs Grant is designing a new reading challenge for the summer term.

Pupil Intake:

Parents asked about our pupil numbers as it had been noted that new children have joined the school since September. Laura explained that we try to aim for 15 pupils per year group in order to have classes of 30 but this isn't always possible. We need to ensure that we keep our cohort size

at 105 pupils for financial reasons. We had a few families who left us in the Autumn term and were aware of another family who had notified us that they are leaving imminently. Therefore, we took additional children to fill these gaps.

FOTS:

FOTS are desperate for new members. Robert asked if it was possible for grandparents and other family members to become members. FOTS need to check their charitable trust document to see if this would be possible. It was felt that parents are happy to help out when a list of jobs is drawn up but they are worried about becoming a member in case they are given a job that they don't have time for. It was agreed that the job list approach is probably the best way forward at the moment but we should continue to ask parents to put themselves forward to join the committee.

Play Equipment:

Laura congratulated FOTS for being successful with their grant application to Morrisons and being awarded £5000 towards the play equipment. FOTS have set aside £3000 for the play equipment so they now have a total of £8000. Laura said that she would check the PE grant balance and confirm how much the school could put towards this amount. School have forwarded the children's designs to FOTS and asked the FOTS to source the new equipment for us. They have been in touch with one company who may visit to carry out a site survey.

Photographs:

Parents were not happy with the quality of the photographs. We changed the photographer two years ago because parents didn't like the formality of the photos. The current photographer takes a range of less formal photos. Staff do their best to ensure that the children look neat and tidy before the photos are taken. Laura will investigate the feedback about the Morley photographer and consider changing the photographer for next year.

Indoor PE Shoes:

Parents feel that they are being asked to provide too many different types of footwear for school. They asked why it is necessary to be providing indoor PE shoes. Laura explained that it is a health and safety executive requirement for all schools. Last year, one of our pupils broke their toe when they hit their foot against the wall. Parents would like the option to buy the cheaper black-soled plimsolls but they cause marks on the hall floor, which are very difficult to remove. Following the meeting, Laura found that Sports Direct sell white-soled canvass shoes for £3.

Parent Meetings:

Parents said that parent meeting times (3:15 to 6:00pm) prevented parents who work from being able to attend. It is difficult to book the later meeting slots because there isn't enough warning about when the sign-up sheets are going up. Laura said that we would try to ensure that we give more notice. Teachers will arrange separate times for parents who can't make the specified dates and times. However, Laura said that teachers should not be expected to be at school after 6pm. Like other professions – dentists, doctors etc – we are able to make appointments during the working day. We can also offer an early morning appointment where necessary. There are only two meetings per year and we inform parents of the week in which these are taking place at the beginning of the year.

Action Log:

Clubs and Wrap Around Care		Completed
1	Parents/carers to complete the wrap around care survey	
FOTS		
2	FOTS to check if grandparents and other family members can become members of the committee	
Play Equipment		
3	Laura to inform FOTS of how much school can donate towards the play equipment	
Photographs		
4	Laura to investigate the photographer that was used by Morley this year	
Parent Meetings		
5	School to notify parents in good time when putting up the sign-up sheets for Parent Meetings.	

Next Parent Forum: Friday 12th June 2020 @ 9am