

PiPs Meeting
14 October 2020
9.30 – 10.30, New Haw Juniors School Hall

Attendees

Mrs Cahill
Mrs Carter-McQueen
Mrs Keating
PiPs - All year groups were represented

Welcome

Mrs Cahill opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and ran through some general reflections following the children's return to school.

The children's lack of attention since their return to school has been an unanticipated challenge and is requiring extra management. The school has been pleasantly surprised by the accelerated reading level of some pupils, where it is evident that their reading and development was strengthened during the period of lockdown.

The remit of PiPs was discussed; PiPs are ambassadors for the classes and year groups they represent and should aim to manage the impacts of social media and signpost parents to factual content and sources.

IT Systems

Since June £100,000 has been invested in equipment to allow for remote learning (as is a requirement of all schools). The Google learning platform went live this week and has so far been well received. A protocols document will be sent round shortly setting out what is expected in virtual classrooms/learning environments. There will be a mixture of online work as well as handwritten work.

For any families lacking access to the required IT they should contact the school, via the office, and provisions/alternatives will be made and given. PiPs were asked to remind parents about and circulate the recent technology survey to gain an accurate idea of how many people may be affected by a lack of IT.

The school has recently purchased 64 new Chromebooks and 32 new iPads. The vision is that in 3-4 years' time every student will be provided with a device.

Parents Evening

This will take place virtually this term. Invitations to book online were sent out earlier in the week and by Tuesday lunchtime 77% had been booked. New Haw Juniors share a Governor with Fullbrook who utilize the same system, with great success. As with all new things, some teething problems have been noted, particularly parents in different households only able to access one appointment. In exceptional circumstances where the parents can not identify a way to make this work, this should be raised directly by the individuals with the school, via the office, and an alternative arrangement will be sought.

Year 3 students are not invited to join the consultations next week, but going forward will do so.

Homework

Homework clubs are usually run by the school to help support children that require extra support but owing to the current pandemic this cannot be offered.

Some parents have expressed that there is too much homework, and some felt differently that there is not enough. A quick video was sent out to Y3 parents explaining expectations for homework and a questionnaire will be sent out at the end of term to gather feedback on this as well as other school-related topics.

Some parents have experienced problems accessing the Mathematics learning portal. Following advice from the IT team it was suggested that different devices be used to achieve access, failing that parents are urged to get in touch with the school, via the office, and an alternative solution will be looked into.

Toilet Use

Some concerns were raised amongst year 3 about children not having access to the toilet when they need it and some accidents occurring as a result. Mrs Cahill apologized for this, commented this is not acceptable and urged parents to report concerns like this directly to the school.

Lunch

Every year group has 25 minutes to get and eat their lunch. Children are encouraged by staff that wander around the hall to eat, but are never forced to do so; this is all part of building on their independence and selfcare skills as well as helping them to modify their own appetites. If parents feel that a child is routinely eating too little this should be brought to the attention of the school directly and staff can be advised if a little more attention is needed on certain pupils.

Comments in school books

Comments are written in red, which is standard procedure. Purple is occasionally used for dyslexic children as this makes it easier for them to read. Feedback is written for the benefit of the child, so this may be brief and to the point. Ensuring the consistency of feedback with New Haw Junior staff will be looked at.

Comms with the Teacher

Parents are urged to use the child's school planner as an efficient way to get messages to the teacher, but if more is required and a chat may be beneficial parents should approach the school directly by calling or, preferably, emailing.

PGL

Currently, in line with Government advice, nothing can be formally booked for PGL. New Haw Juniors have set aside a week for this so in November if the school is informed that this can go ahead, the booking will be secured.

Some parents requested that there be a more structured payment plan for this, possibly even starting a year in advance (as the trip is around £400). The possibility of setting up some sort of savings club will be investigated.

PE Kit

Some schools, such as the Grange, require children to go in in their PE kits on the days this takes place. New Haw Juniors do not plan to do this and view the uniform as an important tool in being identified as the child being an ambassador for the school.

If parents have concerns about kits getting wet when PE is conducted outside in wet weather, the children can bring them home on a weekly basis.

Mrs Cahill expressed the importance of children getting outside and having fresh air.

Sex Education

Owing to the school closures over the spring term, year 5 missed out on the planned sex education. This will be given to year 5 students after Christmas.

Donations to the school

It was confirmed that any parents wishing to make a donation above the suggested amount to the annual school donation fund can do so via Scopay. If they encounter any issues with this they should contact the school directly.

Mufti day and £1 contributions

Children are asked to wear their own clothes this Friday, 16 October, and in exchange donate a £1 coin to Harvest Festival fund – all proceeds going to Runnymede Foodbank. These coins will be stored in separate zip-up pouches for each class for 72 hours to ensure no risk of disease transmission. The school will look into whether money can be collected online, in line with the 'cashless' ethos, but as this money is going on to a separate organization this may not be logistically possible.

Children being cold in class

In line with Government recommendation, the doors are left open in classrooms to get an efficient air flow; this has led to some children complaining about being cold. Going into the colder weather, a way to combat this will be looked into, but for the time being children are urged to wear more thin layers. Parents are reminded that after Half Term children will be expected to wear shirts and ties which may provide more warmth.

Social distancing in lunch queues

Some children have been behaving in a boisterous manner when queuing for lunch and as a result have been moved to the back of the queue for the safety of the pupils around them.

Next Meeting

The next PiPs meeting will be arranged for some time in the new term.