

PiPs Meeting
02 February 2022
12.15 – 13.15, via Zoom

Attendees

Mrs Cahill
Mrs Carter-McQueen
Mrs Gentile
PiPs – Years 3, 4 and 6 were represented

Welcome

Mrs Cahill welcomed everyone to the call and explained that Mrs Carter-McQueen would join late and that there are some staff shortages today.

Messages

Next week will see Internet Safety Day; the theme is Respect and Relationships in online gaming. Parents will be sent information about how best to support this initiative.

Mrs Cahill went through some questions sent in; one parent asked if those that missed out on the opportunity for swimming lessons be given these. Mrs Cahill said that the school has managed to secure a slot for all year 5 pupils who missed swimming last year due to Covid to attend this year. For Year 6 pupils the problem is that the pool has been unable to secure a swimming teacher to teach the extra sessions. There is a national shortage of swimming teachers. The school has identified a time-slot in the summer term when year 6 will be able to attend and are hopeful that a teacher will be found to teach the sessions.

There was a question about Bikeability, too; this is being offered to years 4 and 5, The school are hopeful that those year 6 pupils who previously missed out (one class) will be able to undertake bikeability training next term.

The regularity of toilet cleaning was raised; toilets are cleaned daily and monitored throughout the day. Mrs Cahill did a spot-inspection last month and found some areas for improvement; toilets were given a deep clean thereafter. It has been reported that a small number of children are not behaving as they should in the toilets and that water is being spilt on the floor, manipulating the locks on the cubicles etc. The children have been spoken to about better/more appropriate use. There was a request made to clean the toilets more regularly - Mrs Cahill reported that the toilets are cleaned every evening and that the main issues reported recently have been linked to poor behaviour rather than cleanliness. Children are taught to treat the premises respectfully and to take responsibility for their their actions.. However, she said the cleaning routine would remain under review. If children need more toilet roll in the day they are free to go to the office to request more.

A comment was received about the Shakespeare Theatre Company; feedback was generally good, but it was felt it could be more inclusive or children that are especially interested in this area could take more active participation – going on to the stage/taking part etc. Mrs Cahill said that all children love workshop events and want to participate fully. However, the nature of workshop events run by external professionals means that all pupils will enjoy the experience but not all pupils will get an opportunity to step onto the stage. Inevitably, therefore some pupils will be disappointed. As professionals/parents a key role is to help children

understand and manage their emotional response to disappointment. The school monitors many aspects of provision to ensure that where possible children are given an equal chance at these kinds of opportunities, for example, efforts will be made for those pupils not chosen for the Performing Arts evening to be able to showcase their skills in a different context.

A comment was made that there seems to be a disparity about assemblies – one Year 4 class has done two, where are some haven't done any at all; Mrs Carter-McQueen said that all pupils will enjoy participating in an equal number of assemblies and that these are usually ordered by teacher-availability.

The way in which Newsletters are sent was raised; these have switched to text messages, rather than emails, based on what worked best for most; Mrs Cahill said that both methods could be used going forward.

Parents' Evening/Mid-year Reports

The last MYRs were issued in 2019; this is a simple report giving a snapshot of how your child is doing and forms the basis for what the teachers talk about during the parents' consultations. This looks at personal attributes, effort made, homework, reading as well as how well each child is doing in Reading, Maths and Science with some targets.

The effects of lockdown/COVID-19 will be taken into consideration against how the curriculum is being delivered, but the children are assessed against the standards that have always been used. Discussions around this will be covered at parents' evening.

A question around a support plan to help raise targets was raised; Mrs Carter-McQueen said that for certain children support plans will be in place. The school will support parents with guidance about what they can do at home to help improve against targets – practical tips will be given at parents' evening.

The booster sessions available to Year 6 were discussed - their purpose and intention. This will be covered at parents' evening, but in essence booster sessions are targeted towards certain children that need more support. Boosters are targeted/bespoke and are led by senior, experienced staff.

Community Care Initiative

This initiative came from the school council. A year 6 pupil wrote to Mrs Cahill and asked if the school would support fund-raising for St. Peters Neo-natal unit. Mrs Cahill took this request to the school council and the year 6 child represented her request. This prompted an initiative where others can present requests to support the community. It was suggested that every term applications are made as to which charities should be chosen, along with some supporting dialogue.

There is a school council meeting next week where requests received so far can be looked at.

Wellbeing

Mrs Cahill spoke to the questionnaire that was sent out; responses were encouraging - a clear message was that not all children understand what wellbeing entails. Mrs Carter-McQueen said that next week is Children's Mental Health week; next Wednesday will be 'Inside-Out Day', focusing on how people look may not be how they are feeling. For fun, children will be encouraged to wear their jumpers or cardigans inside out to get them engaging with this topic.

Mrs Perkins is the SenCo support worker and is already delivering some invaluable work for identified pupils with social/emotional needs. Some children also benefit from having a 'key adult' to support their wellbeing.

AOB

The PTA was raised; currently, owing to struggles to recruit, there is no PTA. Some very basic functions, such as refreshments at events, such as the Performing Arts Evening, can't be provided. It was commented that some parents may not be aware about the value that the PTA add and how much they contribute to the school, particularly in helping to raise much-needed funding. The only requirement for a PTA is to have a named Treasurer and a named Secretary. Considerations about how to support this functionality continues. The aim is to have a PTA recruitment drive Thursday, 03 March after school (details TBC). The school will write a letter to parents explaining this and highlighting the need and function of the PTA.

Next Meeting

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