

PIP MEETING MINUTES



Date: Tuesday 25th March 2025

Topic

Today the focus was on creating a collaborative relationship with our Parent Representatives. Miss Cooper, PE Lead was invited to highlight an exciting addition to our PE Curriculum - Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA).

We will continue to provide key curriculum updates every meeting.

Attendees

Mrs Cahill - Executive Headteacher
Mrs Linnegar - Deputy Headteacher
E. Jadeja - 4A Rep
B. Aziz - 4D Rep
S. Lemon - 4R Rep & School Secretary
J. Kennaugh - 5C Rep
N. Khan - 6G & GM Rep

Notes

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent meeting and contributed items for discussion. Your questions and comments were invaluable and contributed to a rich discussion. To ensure that we make the most of our time together in future meetings, we kindly ask that you consider whether your question might be directed to the class teacher or the office for quicker resolution. This will help us focus our collaborative discussions on broader topics with our leadership team. Going forward, we will introduce specific topics for feedback and discussion, maximizing the value of our meetings.

Discussion

Are there any upcoming tests or assessments that parents should be aware of in year 3?

Parents are always informed if considered necessary. Children are prepared well by teachers and necessary support put in place. Informal assessments are ongoing all the time and the school ensures there's not a high pressure environment whenever tests are in place.

Discussion

Concern over the amount of special days/events this half term (year 4). Also clarification on details for trips were needed.

During the last PiP meeting, we discussed at length how dress-up days etc. had been scaled back. A decision was made to re-instate dress-up for World Book Day which was optional for children. We always endeavour to provide a balance of opportunities for the children.

Action Items

Communications - To manage parent expectations, we will include an auto-reply on messages sent to the Office email account. Please note that the office receives a large volume of emails, so a response may not be possible on that day. If a matter is urgent, call the office or ask a staff member at pick-up.

PTA Funds - We have spoken to the Chair of the PTA about creating a document each term detailing how they have supported the school.

Buddhist Temple Trip - If parents in year 4 are concerned about overpayment for lunch on this trip, please email the school office.

Clubs - Any parent who is willing to volunteer their time to run a club after school, please get in touch with the school office.

Discussion

There needs to be better communication/ synchronising between the Grange and New Haw (e.g. class assembly because it ran into Grange pickup time).

The Grange and New Haw unfortunately cannot coordinate every eventuality as we are separate schools. We are mindful that many parents have children at both schools and plan accordingly. Class assemblies finish between 3:10pm - 3:15pm. Parents are always invited to leave promptly to collect children from The Grange.

Discussion

Communication from the school has deteriorated, particularly if you email relating to an upcoming event and they didn't respond in time.

We have a strong parent community at this school supported by class WhatsApp groups etc. We encourage you to reach out to other parents in the first instance with small queries. Our office team strive to include as much information as possible when planning events, but please be mindful that immediate responses are not always possible.

Discussion

Can the school look into transportation arrangements from school for children in extra curricular or competition clubs?

Unfortunately the school cannot fund transportation to all sporting fixtures as the cost involved would be significant. Asking for parent contributions would not be feasible as different children take part throughout the year. We appreciate the support of our parent community and ask that car sharing and reaching out to other parents is appreciated. If you have trouble with transport, please let the school office know.

Discussion

Can the school detail what they spend the PTA money on? The PTA records are great but once the sums are handed over to the school what is it spent on? Just mindful of how much money they keep asking for and kids now saying the stationery has run out and we need to take our own.

It is the PTA's decision how the money is spent and the school encourage transparency about the allocation of spend. It's all about 'Need'. We will speak to the PTA about communicating. All agreed that a 1 pager termly update would be useful. This will be discussed with the PTA to ensure communications are effective. Stationery has never been an issue at this school and there is plenty in every class. The annual money for planners and stationery is utilised.

Discussion

Is the policy to still only have teachers do extra curricular clubs? Any scope to have external providers (e.g. Spanish or music like I rock like infants?)

The school will continue with teacher-led clubs only, as any alternative conflicts with our own provision. The income is an important part of our financing. Any child can apply to Surrey Arts for lessons for their children or can seek additional lessons privately. We gather feedback from children about future clubs and parents are welcome to volunteer their time!

Discussion

Modes of communication often conflicted or not very clear (e.g. Y4 Buddhist trip and provision of packed lunch). Scopay issue related to above. Will parents that provided own lunch get reimbursed?

Unfortunately, there was a clerical error for the year 4 Buddhist Temple trip. Only Free School Meal children should have been offered a packed lunch option. If you are concerned about charges on your SCOPAY account, please contact the school office.

Discussion

Why does it cost parents for workshops and why are they always so close together? The cost of these things seems to be monthly if not weekly.

We understand that it can feel overwhelming when these opportunities are frequent and require a financial commitment. The fees help us cover the costs necessary to provide these enriching activities, ensuring that we can offer high-quality experiences for our students. While we strive to plan our schedule in advance, we occasionally receive additional opportunities that we believe will greatly benefit our students, which can lead to closer workshop dates.

Discussion

Keen to understand more about Bikeability teacher to children ratio, routes, lesson duration, safety gear etc ahead of course due to commence soon.

Please refer to the original letter, which includes a link with all the information.

Level 1:

<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/get-cycling/cycle-training-for-children/bikeability-level-1/>

Discussion

I really don't understand why the kids have PE and uniform days. It's quite stressful to remember and also they have a habit of changing it every half or full term so you get used to it only for it to change.

The change of PE days was a trial at the start of this academic year. The results of our parent survey in October 2024, showed that 97% of parents agreed that wearing PE kit to school has worked well.

Discussion

Communicating with the teacher is really hard. It feels as if they do not want to communicate with them. When I spoke to a colleague, she said they have an app where they communicate with class teacher. Can we ask why it is so hard to get anything from the teachers.

Teacher wellbeing is a priority to ensure they stay focussed during the school day. An app would not be an appropriate solution, as it gives the expectation that teachers will respond immediately. We are constantly reviewing our systems, but encourage parents to email or call the office to ensure the most appropriate member of staff can deal with the query.

Discussion

Why does New Haw only do one residential trip? I have contacted a number of schools who at least do 2 residential if not more. I know its been asked before and cost of living was mentioned, but how come all the other schools manage it?

At New Haw, we believe that one residential trip is enough for our children, families and staff to manage. Each trip requires a vast amount of time from our staff and we believe that focus on learning in the classroom (with the addition of smaller school trips and workshop experiences) is sufficient for our school community.

Next Meeting

June 2025 TBC

Discussion

Why has languages seemed to slip - they were learning French in year 3 and don't do it in year 4 - can they at least put on a language club if not part of the syllabus?

To enable the time for swimming lessons this term, French has been postponed until next term, where they will catch-up. French lessons have been taught since September across the school.

Discussion

A child has told their parent that the water fountains outside are mouldy and have green stuff around the spout. Also the water tastes horrible so it's really off putting. Is there a way they could be cleaned? Especially now they're not allowed in to classrooms for a drink.

The outside water fountains were inspected by the PiPs after our meeting. They are clean and suitable for drinking. As we reach the summer term, children will be allowed their water bottles outside at lunchtime.

Discussion

How are children picked to do football matches, athletes, cross country etc, it always seems to be the same children getting to do all these opportunities. Do the kids get asked or picked? How does it work, as it currently doesn't seem fair.

To address this, we recognise the nature of opportunities for children can vary significantly. We do implement a captured questionnaire to gather information about the experiences children have outside of school, which helps us to ensure that all students receive inclusive opportunities.

Our teachers are responsible for selecting activities based on the responses, ensuring that every child is considered. This term alone, we have already organized 16 fixtures over a 12 week term, which is a significant achievement for a state school. We appreciate the tremendous effort from Miss Cooper and the wider team. We aim to streamline our system further to enhance efficiency so that all children have the opportunity to experience competition, engagement and teamwork. Additionally, we encourage children to communicate their interests to their teachers. To foster engagement and teamwork, we also host inter-house fixtures within the school.