

Brize Norton Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of meeting 12th September 2014

Present: Leah Walker, Claire Wright, Kellie Hatcher, Victoria Doran, Jackie Hampson, Jo Webb, Anna Fairhurst

Apologies: Debs Shipway, Jane Hornsby, Angela Forrester

Everybody introduced themselves, and the council explained its purpose and the format of meetings to Anna.

Communication Anna will type up minutes, email them to council members and have them posted on the school website. The next school newsletter will include the names of the year-group representatives and an explanation of what the Parent Council does.

Reception It was asked whether Miss Kerr will teach Class 1 every Monday. She will, in order to give Mrs Winter the planning and preparation time she is entitled to and in order for her to train for and carry out the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Year 1 Some questions were raised about swimming. Last year, Felicity Gidlow (parent volunteer, also a trained swimming teacher), supported a great deal with the swimming, including writing individual reports. The question was where the reports are, and whether Felicity has been thanked properly for her contribution. Anna said she would ask Mrs Rae, who is leading the swimming.

The discussion then moved onto the cost of swimming and whether children have to go. Anna explained that the school is obliged only to send children in one year group. The group had mixed feelings about whether or not offering optional swimming in other year groups was a good idea. It was agreed that representatives would discuss with other parents.

Year 2 The question was asked whether children could be allowed to put their fruit in their trays, rather than in the communal box where they can get mixed up or crushed. Several parents have said that they like the current set-up in the classroom, so children can enter the room and organise their things more independently and calmly. Anna agreed to ask Mrs Barker and Mrs Cox about this.

Year 3 Some parents have expressed concern they hadn't had the chance to meet Anna. Anna explained that she is not always able to be there at the beginning and end of the day but promised to be there whenever she can.

A question was raised about whether parents' permission has been obtained for the school Twitter feed. Anna explained that she will not be posting photographs on Twitter until permission slips have been obtained, and that she will always follow national guidelines about internet safety.

Year 4 Some children have not been following the school's uniform policy. Anna will ask all teachers to enforce the policy. It was asked whether or not cycling shorts, large fluffy key rings, coloured laces, white shirts or boots (ankle or knee-length) were against the policy. Anna will check, update the policy if necessary and communicate the rules in the next uniform.

Year 5 The same concerns about uniform were raised as in Year 4.

People like the new lunch system, with children going up to eat in year groups and KS2 having ten minutes extra break. Lots of people love Tammy's food! Anna explained that KS2 children will rotate what order they are served, to enable as many children as possible to have their first choice.

Scooters are being ridden on the path outside the school. Although the school does not have jurisdiction there, Anna will remind the children to be safe and ask them not to ride there.

Jackie asked whether Anna would agree to outside people running sports clubs within the school, such as a Zumba club. Anna said that of course she would, if the instructor was qualified and DBS checked, and if enough parents agreed to pay to make it viable. Jackie will send Anna details of a local Zumba teacher who might be interested.

Year 6 Everyone is really pleased with the new lunchtime arrangements.

The question was asked whether there would be Easter School this year? Anna explained that she would ask Mrs Bostock and Miss Musgrave whether they are prepared to lead one; if not, maybe Mrs Barker and/ or Anna could do it.

Any Other Business

Anna raised the fact that the last day of term in July is a Monday. She asked whether parents would like it to be moved to the Friday before and lose the INSET day after May half term. The unanimous opinion was that they would. Anna has had the same answer from staff. She will put it to governors. If there is a change, it will be in a newsletter as soon as possible.

Date of next meeting: Friday 24th October at 9am.