

## Brize Norton Primary School Parent Council

Minutes 23rd January 2015

Present: Anna Fairhurst (Headteacher); Kelly Hatcher; Jackie Hampson; Victoria Doran; Claire Wright; Leah Walker

Apologies: Jane Hornsby; Debs Shipway

1 Class 2 are enjoying studying the Great Fire of London. Several parents remembered that when the topic was studied last time, the children made models and set fire to them outside. AF said that whether it happens again will be up to the teachers, but promised to mention it to them and support them if they wanted to do it.

2 The Reception parents are disappointed that the new climbing frame is smaller and less exciting than the pirate ship. AF explained that we took the pirate ship down for educational reasons, but as soon as we started doing it, it was obvious it was completely rotten - we had no choice but to remove it. However, everyone agreed that something else involving climbing and hopefully, also, imaginative play would be really good. We talked about the possibility of using the tree at the end of the se area, maybe building a tree house. Several parents said that they and others would be willing to get involved in planning, fundraising and/ or building a new play area.

**Action: AF to speak to Mrs Winter and to investigate companies which do climbing frames and find out costs, opportunities etc; also find out Health and Safety and legal implications of parents constructing something.**

**Action: Everyone to ask around to gather people's ideas and to see if there would be any volunteers to plan, design and/ or build something**

We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

3 Some parents are concerned that children are being made to have large portions of food on their plates and are then told they must eat it all.

**Action: AF to speak to Tammy and ask her not to put large portions on the younger children's plates; after all, they can always come back for seconds**

4 A question was raised about children not always getting their choice of meal. AF explained that KS2 children can now choose their meal, and Tammy tries her very best to make sure there is enough of everything. AF also explained that we are moving to a new company after Easter, and they are already negotiating with our School Council and with Tammy to come up with a menu which Brize Norton children will be happy with. They will also be willing to change the menu at any time if it turns out there is something the children don't like.

AF asked the parents whether they would be interested in exploring payments in advance, enabling all parents to choose what meals the children had. Several people said this would be good, especially if it were possible to order online, though there was a feeling that it would be good to also have the ability to order occasional meals on the day. AF said these were issues to discuss again once the new contract is in place.

5 The new school letterbox is popular

6 Now the newsletter is coming out by email, some parents would like to be able to respond by email (e.g. trip permission slips). It would be good if all letters were sent out by email, not just the weekly newsletter. There is also a concern that some parents who have requested paper copies are not receiving them. AF explained that letters are named and given to teachers to give to the children. Now is not a great time to change the office system for collecting in parental replies, but that is something we will revisit after Easter.

**Action: AF to ask the office staff to double-check that every parent who has requested paper copies is receiving them, and to ask that all letters be sent out by email as well as on paper.**

7 Some children have told their parents that they are not getting enough time to finish their lunch. AF explained that children are never hurried or told they may not finish by the staff. There has been one incident where a Y6 child was discovered hurrying the younger ones so that lunch could be cleared more quickly and everyone could go out to play; that was stopped, but we will need to make sure it doesn't happen again.

**Action: AF to ask all the Class 4 children to make sure the younger ones have enough time to eat**

8 Some children, especially the older ones, feel that the "Special Table" isn't very special. Various ideas were put forward, such as stickers in assembly, a special chair at their existing table or children being allowed to take a friend to the "Special Table". We couldn't come to a decision, so we agreed to pass this over to the School Council.

**Action: AF to ask School Council for their ideas about the "Special Table"**

9 AF was reminded that she had promised to ask teachers to count raffle tickets and organise certificates after a certain number. She apologised and said she would do it

**Action: AF to get this organised**

10 Some parents are concerned about the number of sweets children are getting, both as raffle ticket prizes and when children bring them in for birthdays. After discussion, it was agreed that we don't want to stop children bringing in sweets for their birthdays, but we will make sure they are not in raffle ticket prizes.

**Action: AF to ask teachers not to put sweets in raffle ticket prizes**

11 There are concerns that sometimes parents are not told, and do not receive a slip of paper, when there is an incident. AF explained that our policy is that the member of staff who deals with an incident will talk to the class teacher and provide a slip when there has been an injury. She apologised if the system does not always work and will remind staff, as well as asking them if systems need to be adapted to make this easier.

**Action: AF to talk to staff**

12 There are concerns that sometimes staff bring "staff politics" into conversations with parents. This should never happen.

**Action: AF to talk to staff**

13 The Magic Club is very popular. AF said that there are still some places.

Date of next meeting  
9.30 Friday 27th February