

Brize Norton Primary School Parent Council

Minutes 13th March 2015

Present: Anna Fairhurst (Headteacher); Victoria Doran; Claire Wright; Leah Walker; Jane Hornsby; Debs Shipway

Apologies: Kelly Hatcher

1 The children had enjoyed the trip to the Ashmolean Museum, which was pitched well for the different age groups.

2 It was noted that Mr Hand's lessons are appreciated by the children, who like him very much. It was asked whether he could stay beyond the summer; Anna said this would depend on the budget.

3 Parents' Evening in Class 2 went on later than planned, with some parents having to wait a long time. There are good reasons why, and we had a conversation about how we can prevent this in future. Next time, teachers will be asked to plan in gaps, so they don't have large numbers of appointments back-to-back, and Anna will keep an eye on the time, reminding parents and teachers if the meetings have gone over ten minutes.

4 There is concern that some children are not following the uniform policy. For example, some children are wearing jeggings/ leggings or hair bands in non-uniform colours. Anna said she didn't want to ask teachers to police this (as they have quite enough to do!). From Easter, Anna will do a uniform sweep every few weeks and send texts to parents of children wearing inappropriate uniform.

5 The council noted that everyone is pleased with the way school dinners are going now.

6 We held a discussion about playtimes, particularly about children saying there was nothing to do, and the feeling that some boys, especially, are having trouble playing well. Anna explained about the Play Leaders initiative, being led by Jo Dickson, in which Year 6 children run organised games. The Play Leaders and lunchtime TAs have been given £500 by the School Association to pay for new playtime equipment, which will be bought by May half term. Once the new TA is in place, one TA can take on the role of leading playtime games, rather than simply supervising.

7 Children are enjoying building with the large construction equipment in the Foundation Stage garden. We discussed that the garden is a learning space, not a playground, so we don't want to encourage too much running around (e.g. with a climbing frame). However, it would be good to have more to fill the space left by the old pirate ship, as well as developing our other outdoor areas. There is a possibility of developing the wild area at the back of the playground for Forest School; Alex Rae will know more about this when she has done more of her Forest School training. We will spend time discussing a plan for the school's outdoor areas at the next meeting.

8 Leah Walker encouraged the school to mark the solar eclipse. She said she would investigate how to purchase glasses for viewing the sun. (As it turned out, these were too expensive, but the children did go outside to experience the darkening and cooling atmosphere.)

Date of next meeting: 9.00, Friday 1st May