

## **Basildon Primary Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 5 June 2024**

**Present:** Emma Parish, Rachel Fleetwood, Caireen – BSA, Jo FP – Tigers, Rachael Helanor – Lemurs, Jo – Leopards, Emma B – Wolves

Apologies: Gabrielle MacEwen – Lions, Rebecca Stoop – Lemurs, Hollie Appleton – Bears, Willoughby Badger – Bears, Abby Denton – Wolves, Rachael Costello – Pandas

### **Minutes:**

### **Agenda items**

#### **Staffing**

**EP** – We are now past the resignation date for teachers to hand in notice for September, meaning that we are fully staffed for September.

Not yet in a position to confirm who will be teaching which years - but will confirm staffing for Sept as soon as possible.

**Question** - When will we find out who next year's teachers are?

**EP** – There is a process we have to follow. We have to wait for 31st May (date for teachers to hand in notice) and then start looking at where everyone will be - will share as soon as possible and put in newsletter the process for parents to understand.

**Action:** **EP & RF** to get wording for newsletter.

#### **Attendance**

**EP** - We have had to be stricter on attendance as there has been a directive from the Department of Education. They are asking all schools to go down the fixed penalty route. We have implemented procedures – which has been quite an onerous process - we have to pass information to council and it is them who issue the fine.

Parents have asked for feedback around children's medical appointments, which impacts attendance - school have to be seen to be following up on these.

Guidance is that hospital appointments are ok, but we would ask that dental and routine doctors appointments could be done out of school time.

**Qu** - Do the other schools in the Federation follow the same process? (The Downs seem to approve 1 day of absence and only disallow when it gets to 5 days)

**EP** agreed to look into that - feedback is that they are not following the same procedures. They seem to give a day or two if the student has good attendance.

**RF & EP** to follow up and advise that Basildon is working to Local Authority guidance.

#### **No Outsiders**

The content of this has received some parental comments regarding texts, picture books and assemblies.

**EP** - The school are looking at scheduling a parents info session (either before end of term or early Sept).

Parents asking for more knowledge of lessons and assemblies and details from No Outsiders collateral.

Any parent can go and look at KS1 & KS2 collateral.

EP – Will put link in newsletter and organise parents session.

### **Other feedback**

#### **Bears**

Positive comments – the team in Bears are amazing and the art exhibition was outstanding.

#### **Tigers**

**Qu** - Uniform policy - would it be possible for Year 1 to wear polo shirts and transition through the year?

**EP** - Would need to raise with SLT. We already let children who struggle with shirt & tie do what they can.

**Qu** - Can Tigers do a monster phonics dress up day each year?

**EP** – We will look into it.

**Caireen** - BSA could help to fund as part of the non-fiction day – will discuss with the school.

#### **Pandas**

Amazing art exhibition.

**Qu** - Concern that a TA is in there 3 afternoons a week with no teacher alongside - nothing personal to the TA.

**EP** - Not a regular thing - must have been down to staff illness - not a regular occurrence.

**Qu** - When do they find out about teachers for next year?

**EP** - <covered above>

**Qu** - Could the language around school be addressed again - generally from older pupils?

**EP** - Will flag with staff.

**Qu** - Could parents be given more notice for things? For eg Bike ability where parents only had 48 hours notice.

**EP** – Yes – we try to give as much notice as possible. All other events for the rest of term have been publicised, with the exception of one dress down day that needs to be agreed. Will advise as soon as possible.

#### **Wolves**

**Qu** – The residential for Yrs 5 & 6 in Sept - not heard anything yet and parents concerned re payments etc.

**EP** - About to send out letter to parents - still needs to confirm a few last arrangements.

Payment plan will be available - trying to give as much notice as possible for pay dates.

1st payment not due until Monday after following payday.

Parents that are struggling should talk to the school and longer payments schedules possible.

EP confirming re sleeping arrangements & activity groups as sharing the venue with other Federation schools and want to ensure all children have an adult they know with them.

Next Parent Council scheduled for Monday 1 July, will possibly reschedule to 15 July so not so close to this meeting and nearer the end of the school year.

**Action: RF to confirm**