

BRIZE NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Friday 19th November at 8.45am.

Present: Mark Smith, Helen Biro, Sarah Webster, Olivia Goodgame, Jo Webb, Sara Coles and Lis Adams

Apologies: None

Each of the parent council representatives have been communicating with the parents in their year group to talk about what they like about the school and any concerns that they have. The points raised are as follows:

Foundation

The things that the parents like are:

Forest School

Child is coming home with an ‘exploding brain’

Brilliant at settling children in

Dinner time – trying new things at home and table manners improved

Great support from staff

Like the individual learning plans – like that children are given specific targets, learning support, etc

Parent concerns:

Black marker pens do not come out of the red jumpers.

The school are aware of this problem. The marker pens were ordered from a different supplier last time and Mrs Bridges has contacted them to raise this issue. In the meantime, Mrs Bridges is also contacting other suppliers as we would like to purchase the markers from somewhere where they are guaranteed to wash out.

Forest School – Cold weather and lack of toilet and hand washing facilities.

Miss Perkins had to do a 1 year training course to become a forest school leader and it is run all year round so the children have the benefit of seeing the change of season. Miss Perkins goes on site at 8am on Forest School days for a dynamic risk assessment and in very cold weather the sessions may be shortened. In an emergency situation we do have access to the house next door, owned by Mark Smith’s parents, for toilets and Miss Perkins always carries anti bacterial hand cleaner.

School Dinners/lunch times.

The time taken at lunch and the dinner options are being looked at and a parent survey will be carried out.

More support for new parents – information and guidance on things such as PE kits, sharing assemblies, special dinners, etc.

It was suggested that we could hold informal parent drop in sessions for foundation parents after the school year has started. We could also identify foundation parents with older children in school who can offer advice to new parents.

Cooking – money being sent in but cooking not coming home.
Often the children cook things to take to forest school or to eat during snack time.

It was suggested by a parent that the dates in the newsletter could be set out in calendar form.
The format of the newsletter lists all dates at the end which was felt to be the best option. The school website has a calendar on it which is accessible by all and is kept up to date.

Year 1

No concerns to report from the parents of this year group.

Year 2

It was suggested that we could do a uniform exchange where people bring in old uniforms and swap them. If people do not have uniform to exchange and want to take something, a donation could be given.

This is a good idea and could go ahead once a term in the playground.

Year 3

It was suggested that it would be useful if a crèche could be provided for younger siblings for the sharing assemblies.

This is something we could look at with a member of staff and possibly a parent volunteer.

After a recent school letter, a parent felt that they were not able to settle their child in the classroom in the mornings.

In some schools, parents have to say goodbye to their children in the playground and are not allowed into the classroom. This is not a route that we want to go down but the classroom can get very chaotic in the mornings so parents are asked to settle their children and say their goodbyes quickly. Mark Smith will put something in the next newsletter to clarify this.

Year 4

It was noted by several parents that this terms whole school topic has been great. It causes great discussion at home between siblings and the children have thoroughly enjoyed it.

No concerns raised by parents in this year group.

Year 5

A parent felt that homework should be marked by teachers and not by the TAs.

If the teachers marked the homework, it would take them away from teaching and that is why the TAs have this responsibility. Any excellent work or concerns will always be referred to the teacher.

It is not acknowledged in the end of year report whether homework is done and handed in on time.

This is being addressed for the next reports.

Internet homework – often requires help.

Education City or KLP homework is something that the children should be able to do without too much help from parents. Any children without access to a computer or the internet are given the opportunity during lesson time to complete their homework.

Year 6

No parent concerns raised.

Meeting closed at 10.45am. Next meeting will be held on Friday 21st January 2011 at 9am in the staff room.