

## Today's meeting – Agenda

1. School dinners, selection, what is advertised and what is served up, amounts per child
  - Brought to the attention of the HT prior to the meeting that some children were not getting the food advertised on the menu
  - In some cases, children were being given plain pasta or plain pasta with cheese instead of spaghetti bolognaise
  - In some cases, additional items such as garlic bread (advertised on a previous menu) was never being given out to the children
  - One parent commented on the size of the portions asking whether they are bigger portions for the older children as her child doesn't seem to get a big enough portion whilst her other child, who is younger has too much.
  - HT reports that waiting times in the hall are reducing and there are now no plans or need to extend the lunch hour to accommodate all children that want to eat.

→ Mr Stock meets with EATs catering on a half termly basis, this information will be forwarded to them. □

### 2. Walking Bus

- Parents were positive about the idea of the walking bus both were concerned about the quality of path (or lack of pavement) walking down to Kirton in particular. They commented that this is often quite dangerous in parts and the hedges are often overgrown meaning that children and parents end up walking in the road.
  - Concerns were raised over what happens if it is raining – what happens to the walking bus?
- Mrs Simpson will contact the local authority grounds team to alert them regarding the issue. □
- Mr Stock will construct a letter to the local authority asking for something to be done about improvements to the pavements, after all the school is doing something proactive to try and reduce the congestion outside school at the end of the school day BUT will not put children in

danger by encouraging them to walk along pavements not fit for purpose.

□

→ Mr Stock will then suggest in the November newsletters the trialling of the Trimley St Martin end walking bus. Senior leaders will consider what would happen in the event of rainy or poor weather conditions. □

### **3. Improvements to booking After School Club**

- Parents were happy with the new booking arrangements made to the After School club, it allowed for more flexibility and although benefits working parents more is nice to have as an option for parents in an emergency.

→ Mr Stock will forward the positive comments to the organisers of the After School club □

### **4. Curriculum afternoon comments**

- Parents were positive about the activities for the R.E. afternoon – all accepted the importance of learning about other culture, celebrations and traditions.
- Some parents questioned some of the workshops as they were a little 'heavy going' for the younger children.
- HT explained that the idea was to bring in religious leaders as they had a level of expertise higher than our own teachers and are actively involved with these celebrations every day. HT explained that these adults are usually addressing this information to adults and therefore is possibly why the pitching was too high.
- Some parents commented on the difficulty in the event of having more than one child. HT explained that some events are most suited to working in family / house groups but as this was linked to the R.E. the children were learning in their classes it would not have been appropriate to do it any other way.
- A parents asked how the next one would work >> the next curriculum afternoon is a repeat of last year's Christmas Craft making. There is a slight link to D&T (designing and making) as well as maths (enterprise – pricing and calculating profit and loss).

→ All feedback will be taken on board and applied to the next session □

## **Any other business...**

## 5. School Holidays

- Parent asked about the possibility of adjusting lengths of school holidays e.g the summer holiday to be reduce and additional weeks added elsewhere.
- HT explained that although this was advertised in the news recently there has been no more information about the possibility of schools setting their own term dates. HT explained that the school would need to match the local Felixstowe schools and the high school as this could prove difficult to those parents who have children at the academy and at our school. It would also be difficult for our staff whose children go to other schools in the area.

## 6. Dressing up days

- Parent raised the issue about the dressing up days e.g. Children in Need > Superheroes and the difficulty of finding outfits especially in the event of multiple children within the family.
  - HT explained that the children have been informed over the last two weeks about different ways they can approach this if they haven't got outfits indoors.
  - HT explained that we are in a no win situation, e.g. when we didn't ask children to dress up for World Book Day, parents complained the other schools in the area were dressing up and why weren't we! The theme is chosen by Children in Need but interpretation of Superhero can be very broad. For example; a soldier could be deemed as a superhero.
- Information will be sent out to parents explaining other options for children, including non-school uniform ☐

## 7. Early Finish

- A parent asked if in the winter months whether there was a possibility of an earlier finish, as travelling back to Kirton becomes quite hazardous.
  - HT explained that this is something that would need to be discussed with the Governors. However, there would be a number of knock on effects e.g support staff contracts, after school provision, parents that rely on school finishing at 3:30pm due to work commitments.
  - HT said he would raise it with the Governors but doesn't think there would be much support for it
- HT to raise idea with Governors ☐

#### 8. Dryer in the girls toilets & no flush in girls loos

- A parent raised a concern about the hand dryer in the girls toilets still being out of action.
  - HT thought this had been dealt with.
  - Another comment was made about the flushing of the toilets. HT explained that because the pipework and cistern is quite old once the chain has been pulled there is some delay before it refills.
- Business manager to speak to Mr Southernwood about repairing hand dryer. □
- HT to investigate in new budget whether there is money to modernise the toilets. □

#### 9. Clock in the playground

- A parent said that they missed not having a clock in the playground. ALL agreed.
- Business manager to order an outdoor clock for playground □
- Site manager to put up clock. □

Next Parent Forum Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> February @ 9:00am