

Belton C of E Primary School Parent Forum Meeting

Thursday 2nd February 2017 2 - 3pm

Meeting Minutes

Present - Mrs Jones (Yr R teacher), Maria Armstrong (Yr R parent), Zoe Weston (Yr R and Yr 2 parent), Nick Weston (Yr R and Yr 2 parent), Sandie Bloor (Yr R parent), Anna Walker (Yr R parent) and Becky Swann (Yr 5 parent).

Apologies - Jo Oakley, Charlotte Emmerson, Karen Smith, Rachel Rudin, Sarah and Alfio Indelicato, Gemma Moyse, Vivien Collins, Deborah Cornwall, Eleanor Milne, Kate Coulson, Helen Woolgrove.

Prior to the meeting there were three main items identified for discussion:

- School Bags
- PE Kits
- School Lunches

School Bags

Opinions were sought regarding the school book bags due to a recent increase in the number of children bringing their own bags and rucksacks to school. There was discussion surrounding peer pressure to own certain character or named bags. It was suggested that the bag should be redesigned to a rucksack style however it was felt that the book bag style was more practical as it keeps books and papers flat as well as being a better fit in the children's trays. Therefore the Belton school book bags which can be purchased from the school website are strongly encouraged and are deemed to be the most appropriate type of bag to bring to school.

PE Kits

It had been noted that not all children have a complete PE kit in school and children are attending outdoor PE lessons inappropriately dressed for the weather. It was identified that the issue may occur following children wearing their PE kit for an after school club and then not returning it the following day. The difficulty in getting kits cleaned overnight was acknowledged and suggestion was made that a separate kit should be used for after school activities. A reminder will be placed on the newsletter to remind parents of the importance of returning PE kits following after school clubs or supplying a separate kit.

It was suggested that jogging bottoms and hoodies could be sold on the school website alongside other PE items however as the jogging bottoms do not need to be branded with the school logo and are readily available from many supermarkets at a reasonable price, it was felt that this would not be necessary.

Mrs Jones had recently read an article regarding the positive impact wearing slippers in school had on children's learning and engagement. The pros and cons of wearing slippers in school were discussed including the expense of the additional footwear, the lack of wear from school shoes, the social impact of having different slippers to peers, the informal atmosphere that would be created and the novelty of seeing Mrs Jones in her fluffy sheep slippers! It was decided that Mrs Jones will trial the removal of shoes at appropriate times for short periods during the day and report her findings at the next meeting.

School Lunches

It has been noted that fewer and fewer children are taking advantage of the universal free school meal each day, particularly those children in year 1. All children in the Foundation stage and year 1 and 2 are entitled to a free hot meal at school each day. Following discussion, it was identified that as the children are seated in separate areas of the hall for hot meals and packed lunches, children were switching to packed lunches to be able to sit with their friends. This issue was immediately rectified and every child is now able to make the choice of where they sit for their lunch.

Next meeting - Wednesday 5th April 2017 2-3pm in the school staff room.

All parents welcome, please contact Mrs Jones.

Should you have any items you wish to add to the agenda/AOB please email them to Mrs Jones at office@belton.leics.sch.uk