

Bunbury Aldersey Primary School Parent Council

Meeting Agenda

27th November 4pm – in person

Attendees:

Mrs Badger

Julia Arkell (Chair, Y5), Natalie Kingshott (YR, Y2 cover), Natalie Connelly (Y5, Y6 cover), Emma Watkins (Y3, Y1 cover), Kati Rockett (Y4)

1) Apologies and matters arising

Apologies: Nicola Tomlinson & Jen Duckett (Y6), Melissa Dawson (Y3), Ange Gordon (Secretary, Y2), Laura Smith (Y2), Charlie Lea (Y1), Kyra Cullinan (YR)

2) Update from Mrs Badger

Heading into the busiest part of the autumn term before Christmas.

Pathways to Write has been successfully embedded. The connected curriculum is available on the website for parents.

Science and Technology is a priority this year – the Friends of Bunbury (formerly the PTA) are fundraising for an outdoor pond learning area. Due to a cancellation from another client, the contractor is able to start work w/c 4 Dec so a loan from the Trust has been made and will be repaid by the fundraising.

Parking remains a key issue. Mrs Badger has a meeting with a Parish Councillor on 8th December. The school propose turning part of the second field (which has separate access to School Lane) into a hard-core car park area with capacity for 30 cars. This could then be accessed by the community. There are no funds available in the school budget so external fundraising / support is required.

ACTION: The Parent Council recommended approaching parents who may own/work in relevant businesses and might be willing to support/sponsor the work.

Mrs Badger reported the main output from the parent survey on parking was interest in school buses. As set out in the letter, that was sent to all parents/carers, free school bus places for those eligible are obtained via the council (not school). If parents are having difficulties then Mrs Badger can recommend help. Parents could also consider organising their own paid bus.

3) Items raised by parents via class representatives

General:

- **Praise for enrichment activities/trips from lots of parents throughout the school** (specific events are referenced in the 'praise' section)
- **Homework:** some parents throughout year groups have mentioned about needing clearer guidelines regarding homework and what to do each week from the webpage, as well as mixed reports regarding my maths. Some parents have fed back it is more purposeful and linked to class learning, more so than mathematics, other parents report

that children are struggling to stay motivated with this new system, particularly as rewards are not as regular.

- **Homework books and take away homework:** a few parents across year groups feel that the time taken to complete the practical tasks warrants more time dedicated to showing them and having them displayed in school. Some children are bringing it home on the same day as the deadline. Also the lack of feedback in hw books is discouraging for pupils.

Homework is a topic at every parent council meeting as different families have different expectations and approaches. The approach taken by the school allows flexibility and choice in how homework is done.

Parents/carers will be invited to visit on take-away celebration day (e.g. after pick-up) and it was agreed this would be much appreciated!

ACTIONS:

- Mrs Badger to provide more guidance on how to approach homework – e.g. spellings.*
- Mrs Badger to ensure homework books are reviewed and rewarded in consistent way by staff members, e.g. use of team points and stickers taken*
- Miss Hickson (Maths lead) to look again at how the completion of MyMaths tasks could be rewarded (without significant admin effort or reams of paper!)*

Year group specific discussion points:

YR

-**Lots of positive feedback** regarding the communication from and teaching of the staff, as well as pupil progress (please see the praise section for specifics)

-**Concern for Mrs Armitage health and questions about staffing going forwards.**

It was confirmed that the arrangements for Mrs Armitage's phased return were communicated to parents last week.

Y1

-**Science Club spaces**

It was confirmed that a waitlist for Science Club is in operation so those who missed out last time will get first chance next time.

-**Positive feedback about the Autumn walk** – noted in praise section

Y2

- **Homework** - Motivation low to do hw: take away homework; homework book and myMaths. More structure and guidance needed with hw on class page.

The Parent Council members agreed that parents/carers should support each other (over whatsapp etc) when questions arise regarding navigating homework.

-**Online booking system for Badgers?**

It was noted that it sometimes takes more than a week between requesting an additional slot and confirmation (either way) and that more visibility of space and ability to reserve would be

welcomed. It was also considered that this could reduce the administrative burden for Gillian too.

It was noted that the current Badgers booking approach does provide flexibility e.g. ability to pick and choose sessions, rather than fixed days/slots.

ACTION: it was agreed that a booking system for Badgers should be explored. Mrs Badger to discuss with Gillian.

Y3

-myMaths and motivation to complete hw

Discussed above

-release of class to parents at the end of the day often late and causes some problems with further pick-ups

ACTION: Mrs Badger to discuss with Mrs Dewsbury

Y4

-Homework – feedback from teachers and webpage; instructions for hw

Discussed above

-Concern over amount of financial contributions requested

It was noted that where charitable contributions are requested it is always stressed that this is voluntary. It was appreciated that sometimes trips can be arranged close together, along with residential payments. Mrs Badger noted that following discussion with the Friends of Bunbury the Reindeer Run had been moved to Easter Bunny Hop partly to reduce amount of contributions requested around Christmas.

Y5

-Homework – feedback and motivation

It was noted that sometimes the weekly homework (spelling and MyMaths) are not posted at a consistent time which could make establishing a weekly routine more difficult

-Water bottles not being allowed on desks – are children drinking enough?

This was raised in the previous Parent Council meeting and still causing parents concern. Mrs Badger re-iterated the importance of the children taking personal responsibility for drinking at lunchtime and throughout the day.

ACTION: Mrs Badger to raise again with Mrs Smith to ensure sufficient opportunities to drink during the day were being given, and whether bottles could be kept in another location or drinks champions be used.

-Badgers suggestions- newsletter/booking

Positive feedback for the provision at Badgers was shared. It was suggested that some of the activities that the children do at Badgers could be celebrated in the school newsletter (or separate newsletter).

ACTION: Mrs Badger to follow-up

-PE missed lesson and concern over shortened lesson

ACTION: Mrs Badger to follow-up with Mrs Smith to ensure any missed PE time is caught up, and that the children are clearly communicated to regarding any change in lessons.

-Request for a communal carol at KS2 carol concert

It was confirmed there would be a communal carol for parents/carers to join in with at the beginning and end of the carol service.

Y6

-Concerns over disruption caused due to staffing/cover

It was reported there had been some challenging behaviour in the class when TAs were covering.

Mrs Badger explained that Miss Hickson had been required to training courses in the last few weeks along with dealing with a family bereavement which had caused absence. Using TAs to cover classes rather than bringing in supply teachers is preferred as the TAs know the children and the progress of class learning.

-PE selection

ACTION: Mrs Badger to follow-up with Mr Friel to ensure consistent selection policy

-Lack of residential and transition activity for children not going to Tarporley

Concern raised due to high numbers of children in Y6 expecting to transition to schools other than Tarporley e.g. Heber and that those children will not get a residential in Y6, nor get as much transition time.

Mrs Badger explained Heber had been approached in the past but as Bunbury is not a feeder school they do not invite pupils to attend "transition" activities during y6. Heber do their residential during Y7 (rather than in the term before starting). All Y6 children attend the 3 x half-day sessions at Tarporley during the year and experience the high school environment whether transition to Tarporley or not.

All children are able to enjoy SchoolFest and will have attended residentials in Y4 and Y5. As such there are no plans to provide a residential for those not transitioning to Tarporley. Also, last year at the same time that the Tarporley residential was held, Heber held a 1 day transition visit.

ACTION: Mrs Badger to consider possible activities during the Tarporley residential given the high number of children likely to still be in school.

Positives and praise!

YR: Lots of praise for the phonics evening where parents got a great insight into how the children learn to read. Lots of praise for Mrs Hunt! Tapestry is very popular with parents who love being able to see their child's activity in school, particularly when their child does not share much information about school. Praise for great Diwali celebrations. Great communication from school, texts/emails appreciated! Buddy system amazing. A parent reported they are delighted with the reading progress of their child. Lots of praise for Mrs Fitzpatrick, super TA, kind and quick to respond and help when needed.

Y1: Autumn Walk. Children really enjoyed getting out and about in the fresh air. Thank you!
Y2: Praise for Owl visit – it was an absolute hoot (sorry!) and children loved it. Praise for Mr Friel's PE. General praise for Mrs McShane and Mrs Charlesworth – children are happy and thriving.

Y3: Praise for French in Y3 and general progress of child.

Y4: Praise for Mr Friel's PE. Praise for brass lessons. Praise for zoo/gorilla visit. Praise for Mrs Snelson and her prompt feedback.

Y5: Praise for the Pilgrim Day and Spanish

AOB:

Brass concert: request for Y4 to perform brass in school for parents.

Nits: outbreak in Y5 – request for reminder to go to parents to check.

Footballs: request for footballs used at playtimes to be pumped up. Also understood that school can't be expected to keep buying new footballs if lost/damaged. Parents would be willing to donate if asked.