

Parent Council Minutes November 2024

**Reception**

Parents thought the transition from pre -school was incredible and were very happy that the teachers had visited their children at their various nurseries before starting school. They liked having the 1-1 meetings with the teachers in the first week back.

Parents liked the open morning, being able to see their child’s books.

Parents would like to know how we manage the safety of children from breakfast club to the class teacher.

The breakfast club staff take the children to the Reception teacher stood on the playground. A member of staff from breakfast club is stood at the top of the path so that no children can leave the playground. A risk assessment for Breakfast Club is in place.

Parents wanted to know how we know who is in After School Club

Mrs Clough informs the teacher. If a parents sends a text message to Mrs Clough during the school day she might not pick it up until After School Club has started. Parents need to inform the school office; they will let the teachers and Mrs Clough know. It is important that Mrs Clough knows if their child will be in After School Club with plenty of notice to avoid a phone call home at the end of the day to check.

Parents wanted more outdoor learning / welly walks and the children to go into the Forest School environment.

Reception/1 Children will have Forest School sessions in Spring (2) and Summer (1). Parents will be informed with plenty of notice when they will start. The children have access to the Reception outdoor area every day. Opportunities to spend time in the outdoor area at school other than at breaks are planned in conjunction with current learning. Discovery/ Welly Walks in the local area are planned half termly in addition to the above.

**Year 1/2**

Nurturing Environment: Many parents appreciate the supportive and caring approach that helps foster self-esteem and celebrates the uniqueness of each child.

Community Feeling: The school has a strong sense of community where staff and pupils know each other well.

Location and Size: The rural setting, small size, and Forest School approach were frequently praised.

Inclusivity and Individual Support: The school is seen as inclusive, providing extra support and celebrating individual achievements.

Communication of Events: Effective communication of upcoming events was noted as a strength.

There is a call for more opportunities for children to participate in team sports like rugby, hockey, and netball.

Mrs Jones has organised for a teacher from Wilmslow High School to run a range of fun sporting activities for Year 1/ 2 on Thursday 5th December.

The school council have been working on playground zones, so that specific games such as hockey and basketball are played in specific areas at playtimes whilst still allowing space for free play.

We will ask a couple of our School Games Makers in year 6 to write a piece for the weekly newsletter about how they organise games for the younger children at playtimes.

We have a strong link with Wilmslow High School and send our children to sporting events there. These events are for all year groups; Mrs Jones endeavours to make sure that different children get invited each time.

We achieved the gold award for our commitment and engagement in schools games.

Parents would like more extra -curricular clubs such as cookery, music and craft

Additional extra- curricular clubs are discussed with the staff team. Staff wellbeing is also a priority.

Some parents wanted to know if their children could enter the classrooms earlier in cold or wet weather.

Parents can pay £1.50 for breakfast club if they drop their child off at 8.30.

When it is heavy rain we open the classroom doors five minutes earlier.

Homework Options: Could teachers offer paper-based homework on maths, story writing, and class-related topics?

Homework is often a debatable subject in schools. We try at Styal to get the balance right for everyone. We currently use more technology-based programmes to set homework. The staff team met to discuss homework at the start of the Autumn term. Staff recognised that not all children complete their homework despite every effort to encourage and praise them to do so. The outcome was that if children would like their spellings set on paper, they are available from the teacher. In Y6 children start to get ready for High School with a CGP book for maths. The SLT plan to get a parental survey out in tandem with discussions with School Council so both children and parents are given a voice.

Some parents wanted support on teaching techniques, such as math strategies, to support learning at home.

A curriculum meeting was held at the start of the Autumn term where teachers discussed and demonstrated how phonics, reading, writing and maths are taught at Styal. The staff team are researching different ways to give parents even more support through video links.

**Year 3/4**

The children feel safe.

Parents are concerned about the lack of lighting around the school when they pick up from After School Club.

Repairs to the lighting on the outside of the main building is imminent. Unfortunately, the school cannot provide lighting on the cobbled path.

Parents are concerned about other parents driving too fast along the cobbled road, parking in front of the cross and parking in the residents' car park.

Considerate Parking and Driving will feature on the newsletter with regular reminders to families.

We will contact the local PCSO officer to do spot checks.

We will have a whole school assembly on road safety.

Each class will have a road safety lesson, where children can design road safety posters to give to their own family.

The POS will organise a themed walk to school day to encourage parents to park at the mill car park and walk along the path to school.

Lunches: Some parents didn’t know what was available for lunches.

One parent thought their child had only requested to have 1 fishfinger and that was all they got for lunch.

The lunch menus are on the website. The week number is on our weekly newsletter. We will check with the kitchen staff that all children are given the correct portion of food. If a parent has a concern, please go and talk to their class teacher directly.

**Year 5/6**

Parents wanted to know why we can’t use the residents’ car park.

Parking is discussed regularly within the community and at school. As a school community, we must respect the residents who live in the village just like other schools that are situated within residential areas. The residents’ car park is for residents. Free parking at Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Cricket Club allows parents to park safely. Parking along Altrincham Road is available.

Can we find a way for children to share learning at home rather than all sending individual emails?

Mrs Hennessey will speak to KS2 about using a class blog on Purple Mash as a way of sharing work.