



## Crockham Hill C of E Primary Parent Council Minutes

28 June 2024

### In attendance

Mrs Higgs (Headteacher)

Emily Keely (Chair)

Representatives across all year groups/classes

Agenda Item	Key Discussion points	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.	
2	<b>Review of actions from previous meeting on 1 March 2024</b>  All actions complete; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ PE days are communicated at the start of each term via Parentmail</li><li>○ EdShed logins have been shared with all pupils from years 2-6 and children have been shown how to use it.</li><li>○ Where possible, the playground gates are open just before 3.15. The school are unable to open too early due to safeguarding and safety. Once the gates are open a member of staff must be in the playground at all times.</li><li>○ New Starter booklet has been reviewed and updated ready for new reception children starting in September 2024.</li></ul>	
3	<b>What has gone well since the last meeting?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The Year 5 and Year 6 residentials. Thanks to teachers for the organising and supporting the children.</li><li>○ Sashes at sports day were a good idea. Mrs Higgs thanked the PTA for funding the sashes.</li><li>○ The introduction of the lunchbox buckets, for children to put their lunchboxes in so all in one place whilst playing outside.</li><li>○ Forest School available for all year groups</li></ul>	
4	<b>PE days</b>  Mrs Higgs advised that whilst every effort is made to keep PE days the same, they may change for a term to accommodate the classes taking place and other opportunities such as Forest School (Monday).  Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the external PE Co-ordinator cancelled some days at short notice this term, which meant that the school timetable had to be changed after days had been communicated. Mrs Higgs apologised for the inconvenience caused by this.	

5	<p><b>Assessment Week</b></p> <p>It was requested if Assessment Week could be included on the school calendar, or an email sent out so parents aware that they were taking place.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs advised that assessments are part of the curriculum and happen at the end of each term to monitor the children's learning and support any gaps in learning. This term, due to other activities in each class, the assessments were not carried out in the same week. The children are used to completing these on a regular basis and part of their learning.</p> <p>This term the Year 5 assessments were NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) assessments and purchased by the school each year to provide level and understanding on the child's learning should it be required in the appeals process of the Kent Test.</p> <p>If a parent has any concerns regarding their child's learning, please do raise individually with your child's class teacher.</p>	
6	<p><b>Woodland Area in the playground</b></p> <p>Unfortunately, the woodland area has been out of use for several months this year due to the ground being waterlogged and unsafe. There is a small stream that flows under the school grounds and in prolonged wet weather like we have had during this winter and spring, has meant that it's too wet. This is exacerbated with the runoff from surrounding farmland coming down the hill, even with the soak away that was installed approximately 5 years ago due to the volume of rain this has not been enough to contain all rainfall. The caretaker has carried out some work to reroute the water, so it is hoped that this will improve the situation.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs is looking at options to make improvements to the playground areas.</p>	
7	<p><b>Class Assembly start times for KS1</b></p> <p>A question was asked if the start time of the class assemblies for KS1 could be after drop-off rather than at 2.30pm.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs advised that the afternoon assemblies was better for KS1 children so they could go home with their parents straight after the assembly, rather than coming into school and then seeing their parents and saying goodbye again which can be unsettling.</p> <p>Due to the cook preparing the lunches during the morning assembly time, having the assembly at 2.30pm meant there was no noise from the hatch.</p>	

8

**New start time to the school day from September 2024.**

Due to the Government requiring all schools to have a minimum of 32.5 hours in a school week, the school day will need to increase by 10 mins per day. Mrs Higgs thanked parents for their feedback and questions during the consultation period.

Nine comments were made, themes of the comments include.

- A request to allow children to play in the playground from 8.30am rather than go straight to their classroom.

Mrs Higgs advised that a 'soft start' has many benefits as allows the teacher to check in with each child as they come in. It also allows opportunity for early morning tasks to help children prepare for the school day, and an opportunity for the teacher to feedback comments from marked work to help with next steps for learning. Teachers found that previously children would come in hot from running around, or unsettled so would take longer to be ready for learning.

- Would the earlier start clash with the preschool who have some children being dropped off at 8.30am.

Mrs Higgs spoke to the preschool and the numbers of preschoolers who attend from 8.30am is unlikely to impact on the school drop off time. It may help with cars on the lane as most preschoolers attend at 9am.

- Concerns that morning clubs and intervention sessions will be impacted.

Intervention would be for 30 mins and cross county will continue being in the morning, just slightly shorter. It is anticipated that Netball club will be an afterschool club from September due to staffing for the club.

- Could the extra 10 mins be at the end of the day or 5 mins at the start and 5 mins at the end of the day?

A later start time would have a wider impact, for example parents with preschoolers would need to wait 25 mins as finish at 3pm and would need to wait till 3.25pm. The caretaker and cleaners would have to start later, after school clubs would end later too. The change would also impact the afterschool club Wellyboots.

- Concern that for the younger children at the school that it would make it a longer day which is tiring for them.

If following the change, your child is struggling, please do speak to the class teacher to discuss.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will there be an opportunity for children to have a break from learning.</li> </ul> <p>It is hoped that there will be opportunities to have short breaks outside, during the day outside the normal break time. For example, the 'daily mile' could be reintroduced or have a short class break outside if the teacher feels it would be of benefit to the class.</p>	
9	<p><b>External Sporting Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How are children picked for external events and can parents have communication to advise when a team has been picked, so they can make necessary arrangements?</li> </ul> <p>For the District sports competition, children were asked if they wished to take part as sometimes children are selected and then they don't want to do it. Teachers then selected based on sports day, rather than trials.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs will try to manage the children's expectations and inform them if they have not been selected for an event, so they are aware. A form is normally sent via Parentmail asking for permission if a child has been selected so arrangements can be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Girl's football- is it possible for the girls football team to have a training session before a match.</li> </ul> <p>Where possible, the school will provide a session for the girl's football team.</p>	
10	<p><b>After School clubs in September</b></p> <p>Would it be possible for the school to share the club list options for next term as Wellyboots are requesting parents to confirm the day and times that are required for September.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs advised that it was being worked on this week and the intention is to send to parents shortly. The school are waiting on some external providers to confirm days, as soon as this is received it will be circulated via Parentmail.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the parent who currently runs the football is unable to continue after July, so a request will be sent out via Parentmail to see if another parent could run this club.</p>	

<p>11</p>	<p><b>Speed on the lane and the Car Park</b></p> <p><b>a) Speeding</b> Cars are driving too fast down the lane into school and in the car park. It was agreed that the school will send an email as a gentle reminder to parents to be mindful of their speed when driving down the lane and in the car park.</p> <p>It was noted that not all cars that speed are connected with the school. An enquiry has been logged with the Council to change the speed limit to 20mph zone on the lane and outside the school.</p> <p><b>b) Lines/Crossing</b> A request for the zebra crossing outside the double gates to be refreshed as faded. Another suggestion is for steps to be installed from the carpark to the village hall car park with a path.</p> <p>As this is not Kent County Council land, Emily Keeley will raise with the Village Hall committee.</p> <p><b>c) Parking outside of school/lollipop area between 8.30-9am</b> Cars are parking by the Church making going around the tree after lollipop drop off tricky.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs will ask staff who park there to ensure there is sufficient space for cars to go around the tree or park in the car park. It was noted that some cars are not connected with the school and are walkers using the fields or those visiting the Church.</p>	<p>ACTION – Mrs Higgs to send email regarding speed of vehicles on the lane.</p> <p>ACTION – EK to raise line refresh and step request with Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>ACTION -Mrs Higgs to raise with staff.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>a) Outdoor Learning Week</b> It was suggested that the school have an ‘outdoor learning week’, like that held at out local schools. Mrs Higgs agreed to investigate the request.</p> <p><b>b) School trips being cancelled</b> Unfortunately, a few school trips for years 3 and 4 have been cancelled this year. These have been outside of the schools’ control, as Kidszania went into administration and for the Reculver trip had to be cancelled at short notice, due to lack of suitable coaches.</p> <p>It is the intention that all year groups will have a local trip, a larger trip and an in-school experience during the year. The school are aware of costs to parents with the larger trips, especially for families with multiple children at the school so will try to provide experiences in school for children which do not have coach costs.</p>	<p>ACTION – Mrs Higgs to explore outdoor learning week.</p>

	<p>It was suggested that the school do trips to local sites such as the Interactive Education Centre at Bough Beech and Bore Place where parents could provide the transport.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs asked for any information on these types of places would be gratefully received so the teachers could look into options for trips.</p> <p><b>c) Epicormic growth on tree by lollipop area blocking sight lines, could it be chopped back?</b></p> <p>Mrs Higgs to speak to the Caretaker to cut back.</p> <p><b>d) When will parents find out about the classes for next year?</b> Transition day for all classes will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July and an Parentmail will be sent to parents advising on their child's class and teacher on this day.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b> If parents are able to make suggestions or provide information on local experiences then please contact the school.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> - Mrs Higgs to speak to the Caretaker to cut back.</p>
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Date of next meeting – Autumn Term - date and time TBC.