

Bunbury Aldersey Primary School Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

23rd October 4pm - Teams

Attendees:

Mrs Badger
Julia Arkell (Chair & Y6)
Ange Gordon (Secretary & Y3)
Catherine Mann & Chez Jenkinson (YR)
Kyra Cullinan and Natalie Kingshott (Y1)
Charlie Lea (Y2)
Kati Rockett (Y5)

Apologies: Melissa Dawson & Emma Watkin (Y4), Laura Smith (Y3)

Welcome to new members of the committee, Catherine Mann and Chez Jenkinson.

Update from Mrs Badger-

- **Pathways to Write** is going very well and the overall aim is to improve children's writing.
- **Nursery** - there is going to be a refit of over half term ready for its re-opening as part of the school on 4th November.
- **The plans to join the CDAT group of schools**- arose from challenge of being 3 small schools without funding to scale. NB had been looking at expanding RCSAT and whilst our ethos was attractive, what couldn't be offered was scale training and support offered by larger trusts. NB also explored other Trusts to join but does not want to join a corporate model. Feels that whilst CDAT has 18 schools it is not corporate as it shares values in educating whole child and Bunbury will retain its uniqueness. Strengths will be improvement in SEN services, school meals, collaborative practice.
- It was noted that CDAT was already supporting with the procurement of new school meal provider, given Cheshire East will cease provision at Easter.

JA joined the meeting on Monday 21st October and heard from Neil Dixon, CEO of CDAT, and concurred that the benefits had been well presented. After half term the application will go to DfE. Operational day to day nature of the school will stay the same. NB role across 3 schools currently in RSCAT also to remain the same.

- **Parking** – no further on due to lack of funding. Application for more funding will be made when the school has joined CDAT as will be able to apply for ringfenced CDAT funds rather than applying against schools nationally.

Items raised by parents via class representatives:

General:

- Badgers - more time needed between after school club booking time and Badgers booking time.

NB will look into this as well as clubs starting in week 1 rather than week 2 but an admin fee would have to be applied for staff to get this ready in holiday time.

Booking system difficult for some parents but also praise for this now being online.

NB – these technical difficulties have been dealt with case by case.

Plans are also being developed for KS1 branch and a KS2 branch – from next Spring (2025)

- Could there be more ASCs for boys? NB said this is dependent on who is available e.g. Nantwich FC are very keen to run clubs at the school currently, and not just football e.g. dodgeball now available

- Suggestion that children could be allowed one ‘trip of a lifetime’ out of school.

The law regarding attendance is not a school decision but a national one and this is not possible.

- Uniform crest/logo – could it be updated along with the motto ‘serve and obey’?

Crest is our link to Haberdasher’s, the school’s heritage and no plans to update.

- Could pick up time also be in a window of 15 minutes ie 3.15-3.30 to help with parking?

NB said this is tricky due to staffing and directed hours of staff.

Year group specific discussion points:

YR

- Lots of praise for the team of 3 staff. Supportive and great with children.
- Meet the teacher was appreciated but could new starters have more detailed, granular information e.g. timings of break/lunch, expectations of children e.g. checking bags

NB – the required info can be added to website FAQs and included in future Meet the Teacher sessions.

Y1

- Lots of praise for Ms CP – very nurturing and children love her. Activities relating to lost and found book have been great.
- Well wishes to Mrs Dale. NB will send these and Mrs Armitage (not YR) being trained as her replacement for now.

- Lost possessions – could children and parents have more help in retrieving them?
NB – there is a lost property place at the front of school.

Y2

- Praise for Miss Cork. Progress seen by parents in their children.
- Concern expressed over lack of recognition for take away homework

NB reported: The display and viewing of work by parents hasn't been taken up by many but the children go to see each other's work.

Parent council suggest of a prize/certificate to be awarded in assembly to the children who have made the best effort. Could be voted for by their classmates?

Y3

- Praise for Mrs Dewsbury's enthusiasm in her teaching and in leading singing at church etc, and for the Harvest Festival
- Concern over frequency of being let out late, sometimes not until 3.25 - NB this is being monitored.
- Query over school trip this term as included on September letter but nothing yet communicated – NB this will be actioned
- Query regarding weekly times tables tests – NB to follow up
- Concern from a number of parents over the toileting lanyard system. AG suggested this might be the move to Y3 and lack of afternoon break.

NB – lanyard system is used across the school so NB will follow-up as to why this isn't working as well in this class

- Concern over minutes being taken off children's breaktime and sometimes affecting the whole class

NB – taking minutes from an individual child for the wrong choice is standard across the school but it is never for the whole playtime and shouldn't be for the whole class.

- Request that emails are responded to in more timely manner

NB requests being copied in and will ensure a prompter turn around.

It was noted that the transition from K1 to K2 (i.e. into Y3) is a significant jump up in expectation for children. The curriculum demands also mean a gentle start is difficult.

Parent Council asked whether a transition period before the end of the school year could be considered. As at Tarporley High School, whereby children begin with their next year teachers and curriculum 2 weeks before the end of the summer term.

Y4-

- Thanks for Mrs Ehlen for being the DJ at the Pumpkin Party

- Feedback captured in general points re ASC and badgers booking

Y5

- Praise for the Pilgrim Trip
- Request for pupils have their water bottles on their desks? Concern over children being sufficiently hydrated to learn and coming home thirsty.

NB - different classes have different approaches but NB will remind all staff to make sure children have time to drink.

- Request for communications could be more prompt particularly about changes to routine e.g. PE day.

NB – noted but explain this was caused by an unexpected change

Y6

- All positive praise for Mrs Haydock and how well all the children have settled in and engaging.

AOB

NB requested that our classes can be told to bring back any RWI books as lots are missing.

Praise and positives – great harvest festival and lots of praise for all the wonderful teachers!