



# Styal Primary School



## Parent Council Minutes November 2023

The main item on the agenda was communication.

What would parents like more information on? Do curriculum meetings help? Do parents like Open Mornings / Stay and Make sessions/ Outcomes mornings? Are they beneficial?

We had lots of positive feedback from all year groups:

### **What is working well in terms of communication:**

- The weekly newsletter is fantastic serving as a reminder for events that week but to also give us an insight into school life. Important things are being communicated, any questions we have we speak directly with the teachers and things get answered / resolved well.
- Good emails.  
Happy how things are. School works well communicating.

Parents in Reception like receiving the photos on Evidence Me.

### **What could be improved?**

- The yellow/red card system absolutely should be in place and we believe it is a great system. We think it would be constructive for us parents to know when and why our children get these cards so we can support the teachers. We don't all have children who will talk about their day and can express why they have received these cards so us parents are in the dark. Parents want to support the teachers so if we have the information we can.

Mrs Boardman has written a lengthy explanation on our last school newsletter in response to this with a full explanation of our yellow and red card system.

- **Would it be possible to have more parents' evenings?**  
We have two parents evenings a year, one in the Autumn term and one in the Spring term, the teachers also write a report for parents in the Summer term.  
**Teachers are very happy to chat to parents about their children and are always available to discuss any concerns/ issues.**

## Do you like Open Mornings/ Stay and Make / Outcome meetings?

- It does feel quite rushed especially for parents with more than one child but I can also appreciate that you don't want to impact the learning day for the children.
- I don't know what the difference between the two are.
- It would be easier after school. So partners can attend if you can't. As well as if you have small kids or babies it's hard to focus on your child.

Open Mornings are when we invite you in to look through your child's books, we keep this to 30 minutes so the children can then continue with their learning. If you have more than one child we suggest 10 or 15 minutes in each class, giving you time to have a look at each child's work. If you wish to discuss anything further with the teacher this can be done after school.

Stay and make sessions happen once a term in Reception, Year One and Year Two when parents come in and make something connected to the children's learning e.g. making a farm vehicle. We see this as a positive experience for all as the children love to have their parents in school. We love to chat and catch up with parents and hopefully it gives you an insight into your child's school life and meet with other parents. We are unable to do these sessions after school. We try to make them as inclusive as possible.

Outcome Mornings happen once a term for classes in Key Stage Two. This is when parents are invited in to see what your child has been learning about. This is presented in a fun interactive way designed by your children.

## Any additional feedback?

- Love that the kids are in their PE kits for forest school now so they're all the same. We really appreciate all the events that are put on at school for the kids and the after school classes which are offered for free. The Edshed and Numbots apps are fantastic for teaching the children that screens aren't just for 'rubbish'. Clearly time has gone into preparing these and we're really grateful that if the children complete their homework they can still explore additional learning within the apps. The weekly changing of books in year 1/2 class has been great to give our children structure to the week and we as parents can get them excited to see which new book they bring home on a Monday.
- I think to keep things simple don't over complicate things, the children are still young and it's important they enjoy / want to go to school. Keep homework to a minimum , family time and values are so important. Children also have activities out of school that are equally as important. It's about balance.
- I would like more extra-curricular activities on various evenings, not just Thursday.

We try our best to offer different extracurricular activities:

We have PCF on a Monday for years 1-6

Choir for years 2-6 on a Tuesday

Gym for years 1-4 on a Wednesday

Spanish, baking and multi skills on a Thursday

Coding club for year 2-6 on a Friday

- [Too many activities are cancelled. We are often told things very late, with little notice,](#)

We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible; sometimes clubs are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

- [Year Six would like to have Forest School sessions](#)  
Unfortunately we are unable to fit this into their curriculum.
- [Are children allowed to talk in the dinner hall?](#)  
Yes , we have changed our dining room so that the children are sat at smaller tables. On each table they have a question which is changed daily e.g. If you could have a super power, what would it be? The questions are to encourage discussions between the children and help them to be sociable. Mrs Boardman will spend time in the dinner hall to check this is happening.
- [How do Reception children transition to Year One?](#)  
We have a parents meeting to tell parents all about the Year One curriculum and expectations. We extend the children's focused working time, so by the end of the Summer term, the children can work more independently for longer periods of time We have a moving up morning where the children get to meet their new teacher and spend time in their classroom. We will discuss how we can improve this and have more opportunities for the Reception children to spend time in Year One.