

# Winkleigh Parent Forum Meeting

## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 2.00pm



### Minutes

Vicki Fenemore   Sheevaun Manning   Clare Lill   Nicky Jenner   Roger Allen   Lisa Warsop   Netty Habel   Caroline Crosby (Minutes)

	ITEM	LEAD	MINUTES
<b>PROCEDURAL ITEMS</b>			
1	Apologies for absence		HB, CC
2	School meal portion and quality	VF	<p>VF provided a background regarding the provision of school meals. Various contractors have been used in the past; Devon Norse, Chartwells and in-house provision. Winkleigh now has a contract with South West Norse again. The provision of school meals costs the school approx £12,000 per year. In comparison the school Curriculum budget is only £6,000. A meal monitoring meeting is held with Norse every term and kitchen staff are met with every week to monitor food production. Teaching Assistants comment on the provision every day and these comments are fed back to the kitchen staff. The menu and portion size adheres to school food standards. Items can be removed from the menu however items cannot be added as this would alter the nutritional content of the menu. Food is served in the classrooms which works well as Teaching Assistants serve and comment on anything that is incorrect on daily basis.</p> <p>RA commented that if parents are paying for a meal the children need to receive a meal. VF agreed and stated that if items are missing from the classroom order the Teaching Assistant must go back to kitchen to request more food. Sometimes there are menu changes due to difficulties with food deliveries. However, in general the menu is provided. If there are ongoing difficulties regarding deliveries the menu needs to change and Norse are spoken to about this. RA commented that we need to make sure that the correct food and correct portion are consistent. VF agreed to feedback to Norse the meeting minutes.</p> <p>It was suggested that the children are surveyed about school meals. Norse will produce a survey.</p>
3	School meal meat free Mondays	VF	VF commented that this is a national scheme. South West Norse have been contacted and have provided background as to why they have meat-free Mondays. See below;

		<p>We work to support the local farming community in many ways. The vegetables we use in our meals support the local farming community, we use a local supplier Total Produce based in Newton Abbott who supply fresh vegetables from farms across the south west (where possible). Our meat supplier is Scorse who use meat predominantly from South West Farms.</p> <p>There are a few reasons why we promote a meat free Monday please see below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Food Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The school food standards states to encourage all children to have a meat-free day each week. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/school-food-standards-practical-guide">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/school-food-standards-practical-guide</a></li> <li>○ They also stipulate how often certain meats can be offered every week</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is commonly accepted that vegetarian food produces less carbon emissions than producing meat. We feed over 10,000 children per week so by offering a meat free day we are helping to reduce the carbon emissions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Promoting Healthy food choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We feel it is school food caters responsibility to promote healthy food choices. Vegetarian options are often healthier so Meat Free Monday can be used to educate children to alternative foods.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We have to look at the cost for our schools and that is a factor to provide a meat free day and meat is the most expensive product that we use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>NJ asked ‘are we educating children as to why meat-free Monday?’ VF responded no not currently but we can do. An assembly was suggested to get children engaged and they will promote. Share the facts around reducing carbon and how this links to meat-free Monday so that children can understand the whole concept.</p>
4	How does school support child mental health in school	<p>VF\SM</p> <p>The school supports children from as soon as they enter the school on a daily basis. All children are greeted every morning at the school gate. Some children are identified as needing a little bit more support. It is important to have a conversation first thing in the morning. Thus encourages children to have a positive day.</p> <p>The Woodland Federation uses the SCARF programme (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) as part of its PHSE Curriculum once a week. We also focus on well-being, physical wellbeing, trips and enrichment to support children’s mental health. Day to day news feeds into the curriculum. Children have the opportunity to speak to peers and see their opinions on various issues throughout the school day.</p> <p>Children can disagree but in school they are given the language to express their conflict. BEECON scheme is used in school which recognises that behaviour issues are an unmet need. In school if there is a behaviour issue, once the behaviour has calmed staff will meet with the child/ren and address what has happened, why it</p>

		<p>has happened and the implications for the other person / people involved. CPOMS is a system used in school where behaviour difficulties are noted.</p> <p>Residentials are a time where children are nurtured but staff running the residentials are firm. Children will push themselves to achieve and succeed and anxiety turns into excitement.</p> <p>Celebration assemblies are also a time to support children. For example, children worry about making mistakes in their school work. Therefore, we have created an 'Excellent error award'. This shows children that it is ok to make a mistake.</p> <p>NJ talked about Brain Science. Thought triggers emotion. If a child is in a negative anxious mind-set, talk to the child about their thought process and the child will understand and relax. Teach children that they are in control and that emotions are positive and negative. Promote resilience and self-empowerment.</p> <p>CL commented that it is good that there is now a Bereavement champion in school</p> <p>Staff also received supervision sessions. They help them to feel calm and ready to teach. Staff deal with difficult issues for example safeguarding issues ie: domestic violence. It is important to give staff time to absorb these issues. Of a lunchtime staff will sit together in the staff room giving them the opportunity to talk to each other about things other than work.</p> <p>As a whole staff team we all try not to bring home life to work as children need to feel safe and secure in the knowledge that staff are ready to help them. Children also do need to fall out, they can't be happy all the time, they do need sadness and they use this to grow into a well-rounded person.</p>
5	Parent help	<p>CL asked if parent help can be brought back into school?</p> <p>SM explained that this stopped during Covid19. There is now a new Ofsted Framework and Early Reading is a massive focus. Children learn to read in different ways. Phonics is the government recommended way to learn how to read. Little Wandle scheme has been purchased and all staff have been trained on how to deliver learning. Reading methods are now very prescriptive. This has meant that all children have passed their phonics tests using the new scheme and also the Love of Reading. Children are not ever taken out of class now for interventions. We use Quality First Teaching and it is recognised that it is not good for a child's mental health to be taken out of class to learn on their own. It was lovely that volunteers used to come into school but reading with other family's children can cause a conflict. Due to Data Protection we cannot give volunteers access to information regarding the ability of other family's children.</p>

NJ asked if there are other ways to support children? SM explained that in Primary there are 13 subjects and each has a subject leader. Teachers receive CPD and training to enable them to teach the curriculum.

It may be appropriate for a volunteer to run an after school club? Or come in to take an assembly? Something outside of curriculum time. Our unique curriculum is very full and structured with a start point and an end point in six week blocks. Other schools are coming to see our curriculum; our Science lead went to Plymouth Marjon University to talk to teaching students. There is a balance between what we do and parent involvement to share the children's education. Come in and see what the children are learning.

NH commented that the school is a happy place and would like to say thank you. The children say that school is better than it was before Covid19 which is an incredible achievement and would like to say thank you!

VF thanked NH and commented that school can again do the things that we love such as providing many enrichment opportunities, now that Covid19 regulations have ended.

Signed .....

Date.....