

## **BEN RHYDDING PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **PARENT AND GOVERNOR COFFEE EVENING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

#### **Parent/Carer Feedback and Subsequent School Actions**

Points raised by parents/carers,

##### **1. Are we getting any extra support in respect of the schools gardens?**

Members of the PTA, parents and staff came in on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, armed with a variety of gardening tools, and helped tackle a number of issues around the school site. The garden areas are now safe and accessible and can once again be timetabled into the school curriculum.

Mrs Cumberland and Y6 are currently working with a company called 'Groundworks' to draw up plans for the garden areas and then to put these plans into action. Y5 and Y6 have put forward a combination of ideas including vegetable patches, flower gardens, 'safe' water features, wormeries, composters, quiet areas, wild areas and bird boxes and feeders. Final designs are about to be chosen and their plans put into action.

As well as reclaiming the school garden, fences were fixed, rotting planters removed and the whole school site received a general 'face lift'. All these actions have helped to make the school a safer and more welcoming place in which to learn. Despite the hard work of all who took part, more still needs to be done. A number of parents have already asked if there will be a second 'day of action' in order to complete the work and have said they would be more than willing to get involved. For this reason I will look at organising a second 'day of action' where hopefully, many of the jobs still outstanding can be completed.

##### **2. Communication – passing things on word of mouth.**

Mr Hartford makes himself available on the school yard in the morning and in the afternoons and quite often engages in various conversations with parents and carers. If anything more pressing is brought to his attention then Mr Hartford invites parents/carers into his office for a discussion. If Mr Hartford isn't sure about a request or an inquiry then he directs parents round to the school office or relays messages to staff. The coffee afternoons have also been designed to provide opportunities for dialogue between parents/carers, Governors, staff and the headteacher.

##### **3. School playground, outside climbing frames and the buddy system.**

The school has just invested a large amount of money on providing pupils with a range of sports and activity equipment during playtimes and lunch times. This includes hula hoops, skipping ropes, space hoppers, problem solving activities, basket balls, dodge balls, building blocks and footballs. This equipment is currently coming into school and being planned and managed into the lunchtime and playtime activities. Y6 have volunteered to establish themselves as play buddies and Evolve will be training them with the skills they need to carry out these roles. The play buddies will also be responsible for distributing and collecting the play and activity equipment. All pupils will have the freedom to choose their activities, although the yard will be organised so that all activities are monitored and run smoothly. The school's climbing equipment will be used during playtime and lesson time only and under the correct adult supervision (as identified via risk assessments).

#### **4. Do we have SEND lead and additional SEND meetings?**

The school was without a SEND lead up until September 2016 when Mrs Leach took on this role. Mrs Leach has additional meetings, planned throughout the year for all the families of those pupils identified as having SEND. If any parents of SEND pupils have any additional concerns then they can contact the school and additional meetings can be arranged. All staff work closely with the SEND lead to make sure support is appropriate and plans are effective.

#### **5. School lunches, concerns regarding portion sizes, additional options and pupil choice.**

All pupils, regardless of year group, now get the same sized portions. A salad bar has been introduced to allow pupils to add to their school dinner in order to give them more choice and hopefully ensure that all pupils have a full and healthy school meal. The pre-ordering banding system has been removed and pupils now have a daily choice of what they would like to eat. Menus are displayed in the classrooms and are downloadable from the school website. Parents, if they so wish, can help their children to select their meal choices from these menus. The kitchen is working hard to audit the uptake of popular meals, for example fish and chips, to make sure all pupils get their first choice. Classes entering the canteen are changed on a daily and weekly basis so no class goes in last or first more frequently than any other, therefore ensuring that the majority of pupils will always get their first choice. The school continues to review lunch time contracts and is looking into the possibility of cooking meals onsite.

#### **6. Better communication regarding school clubs.**

Up to date details of all our school clubs and extracurricular activities can be downloaded from the school website (or provided upon request from the school office). Weekly newsletters are also used to inform parents/carers of afterschool activities and clubs.

#### **7. Concerns raised about the health and safety of pupils and families due to parking issues around the school.**

Mr Hartford highlighted these issues in his newsletter. Unfortunately inappropriate and dangerous parking appeared to continue outside the school. Mr Hartford contacted the Road Safety team and local community police who provided him with an information leaflet for parents regarding the dangers of parking around school sites as well as providing the school with a couple of 'spot checks' to ensure parents follow this guidance. Mr Hartford will include regular reminders in his newsletters regarding safety around the school site and the community police have said they will continue to carryout spot checks for all primary schools in the Ilkley area.

Mr G Hartford