

Parent Council Meeting Highlights - 31.08.22

NEXT MEETING

7PM ON THURSDAY
27 OCT ON **ZOOM**

ALL WELCOME!

➤ A PLACE FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS TO KEEP IN TOUCH AND GET INVOLVED

♥ WELCOME

Welcome to the first Parent Council newsletter of this session. It was great to see so many new faces at our first meeting last week. There was lots of good discussion and debate on some important topics and it was great to hear some of the things the school and nursery will be focusing on this term. If you want to regularly share your thoughts with the school leadership team and other parents – please come along to our meetings or if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Parent Council just email us at netherleeparentcouncil@gmail.com

Thanks, Adam Capek (Chair)

♥ PARENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

It was good to hear that cohesive home learning plans were being produced for the children in preparation for the **impending industrial action**. However the subsequent news that the action has now been suspended is a huge relief! We will continue to maintain this as a priority agenda item until fully resolved.

The Parent Council will be writing to East Ren Council regarding the recent **guidance on PE** and jewellery, in particular regarding 'newly pierced' ears. We appreciate the effort the school have gone to in agreeing temporary measures regarding taping of stud earrings, but it was felt by all parent council members that the guidance should be permanently changed to prevent children being excluded from PE.

It's always good to know what our **children are learning** in class and how they are coping. Sometimes as parents we can feel a bit disconnected from this. As a response to this request, the school will now send children's classroom jotters home on a monthly basis so we can see how they are getting on and talk to them about their learning.

Just a reminder, if you have not already done so, please complete your child's **annual data check** via the Parent's Portal. If you have any problems accessing this please don't hesitate to contact the school.

We continue to work with the school and nursery on the refresh of the **School Handbook**, available on the school website [here](#), to make this more parent friendly. Any parent feedback welcome.

Managing the **cost of the school day** is embedded in all aspects of school and nursery life such as uniform policy, costs associated with various school events, and subsidising trips and outings. Given the current pressures on the cost of living any new ideas are welcomed, please email us at netherleeparentcouncil@gmail.com

♥ HEAD TEACHER REPORT



The **new school website** is now live [here](#) along with a full calendar of events which engage parents in the school and nursery such as Meet the Teacher. Hopefully providing visibility of these at the beginning of the session will help parents plan. A parent and pupil friendly version of the School and Nursery Improvement Plan (SNIP) for this session will also be going onto the website shortly and the Parent Council will work with pupils and staff on this.

A key focus for this session will be refreshing some of the great **accreditations** the school and nursery have achieved over the years and also embarking on securing some new ones! Those being refreshed include the Gold Rights Respecting Award, Gold Sports Scotland and the Eco-Schools Green Flag. New accreditations and awards include Internet Online Safety, the Diana Award and Young Leaders of Learning – where P7 pupils travel outside East Ren to learn about approaches used in other schools.

Making the most of **outdoor learning** is a key priority for Netherlee. Each stage has now been allocated one of the outdoor learning spaces and challenged with how to make the best use of this. There have been lots of great ideas so far including gardening projects and entering the Greenbank Garden Bug Hotel Competition.

There has been a lot of feedback regarding the **new homework policy**; some positive about the changes while others are finding the transition challenging. This is a bedding in phase and questions and concerns are to be expected, however the approach has been designed in direct response to parent views on homework. All of the information is on Google Classroom and further support available from the school. You can either attend one of the drop-in sessions or contact the office for any questions. Also, just a reminder that whilst the school would encourage all children to complete homework tasks, it isn't mandatory and core tasks are just to consolidate what the children are learning in class.