

Before and After School Club Committee

Newsletter 1 – January 2020

As you are aware, a committee has been set up to oversee the initial few months following the Before and After School Club being established as an “in-house” service at Our Lady’s School. We would like to share with parents the objectives of the committee and how we would like to communicate and engage with parents over the coming months.

Now that the club is managed by Mrs Batson, the purpose of this committee is for the Governors and parents to work together with Mrs Batson to take positive steps forward in establishing the best Before and After School Club facility that we can. This will build on what Mrs Daly and her team have created over the past 20 years, ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the children as our highest priorities. We will issue a newsletter after each meeting, to share what has been discussed and achieved.

The meeting held on 22nd January 2020 focused on the following:

1. Stakeholder feedback

As a committee, we will engage with our stakeholders - children, parents and staff.

- a. We will speak to the children who use Before and After School Club to find out what they enjoy and to share ideas. This will happen over the next couple of weeks, before half term.
- b. We would like to hear your thoughts. The committee meeting is open to anyone interested in attending. If you don’t currently use Before and After School Club, what kinds of activities would you like your children to have the opportunity to participate in?

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or comments, you can use any of the following means to make contact:

- i. Speak to Mrs Daly or Anna Chapman at drop-off or collection
- ii. Speak to or email Mrs Batson (head@welearn3651.com)
- iii. Put a note in the suggestions box in school reception
- iv. Email Julia Kenny (juliakenny@warwickshire.gov.uk). This input will be collated and fed back anonymously at the next committee meeting. For those not aware, Julia is the Local Authority Governance Improvement Officer who has been working with the Governing Body on care provision at Our Lady’s.

If your comment needs a prompt response, then options i.-iii. would be preferable, as these can be actioned more quickly.

2. Suggested activities

The ethos of the previous Care Club provision was that children were encouraged to go to the cupboards, choose what they wish to play with and, once finished, to put it away afterwards. Whilst this worked well for many children, it was acknowledged in the meeting that it may not work for all, as some children may need help or encouragement to try new activities, or need the visual stimulation from activities set out in advance.

The Before and After School Club at Mrs Batson’s previous school achieved a Kellogg’s Award in 2018 for the Best Breakfast Club in the West Midlands. Mrs Daly and Mrs Batson will be visiting the school before half term to see what new ideas they can bring back to Our Lady’s.

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Ideas discussed at the meeting included board games, puzzles, arts and crafts, computer activities for older children and the provision of a homework room. Occasional themed snacks, for events such as Chinese New Year and Pancake Day were also proposed. We will share more ideas following the next meeting once we have feedback from Mrs Batson and Mrs Daly's visit. Mrs Daly and Mrs Batson are already working on plans to implement some new activities which are expected to commence soon after half term.

3. Care Club Finances

The governors confirmed that the reason for bringing Care Club under school management was not to generate funds for the school. The Before and After School Club finances will be recorded and reported separately from normal school finances, and will be reviewed by the Care Club Committee. The government guidance "Wraparound and holiday childcare" (May 2016) states that wraparound childcare should be "**broadly cost neutral**" so any small surplus must be reinvested in the service or in the school.

There is no intention to increase fees. Whilst the current fees are comparable with some schools, we are more expensive than others. However, we offer a "pay as you use" service which most schools do not, an aspect very important to many of you.

In the future, we would like to be able to reduce fees, however, the income and costs will need to be reviewed over the next few months before knowing if this is possible.

We hope you have found this information to be useful. Please let us know if there is anything further you would like to know.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March at 6pm at the school. Please let Mrs Batson know if you would like to join us.

The Before and After School Club Committee