

Parent Council Annual Report 2023/24

On behalf of the Parent Council, I would like to thank Mrs Hyslop and all the staff at Davenham Primary School for their tremendous efforts this year. I would also like to thank all the Parent Council representatives who have given their time and support over the last 12 months. The success of the Council is dependent on the combined efforts of both staff and parent volunteers. The Council met half termly at school, and the meetings were always well attended by the existing members. A body of representatives continues to exist, and parents/carers are encouraged to contact any representative, irrespective of their class or teacher. This has worked well over this past year and will continue.

It has been a hugely successful academic year here at Davenham with lots to celebrate. The children have enjoyed residential, day trips and various themed days in school. Parent Council played a vital role in some very positive implementations which have, in turn produced some lovely feedback from parents.

This year there was a new Christmas event for the children where we saw the annual Christmas pantomime held here in school, for the first time. Performed by an external performance arts company. Parent Council feedback after the event confirmed that although the younger children enjoyed this maybe the older children would continue to enjoy the Grange theatre trip. Communications were held around this and an alternative of a pantomime trip every other year was set to be introduced.

Year 5 parents fed back to parent council that their children missed out on a few trips due to Covid years and although a year 5 trip was not usually in the school calendar, due to this feedback, school agreed to take year 5 on a trip to Go Ape in Delamere, which was hugely appreciated and valued by both children and parents. Both are lovely examples of how feedback gathered by parent council can have such a positive impact on our children's lives here at Davenham.

This year we also welcomed some new additions to the school, our very own resident chickens. Taylor and Swift. Parent council received overwhelming amounts of positive feedback around our two chickens including how younger siblings not yet at Davenham enjoy looking at them whilst picking up other family members from school. The chickens were named using a school wide voting system.

After many years of parents and carers asking if more children can use backpacks, together with the parent council forum and the introduction of more lockers this has finally come to fruition. From September all KS2 children are welcome to use a plain, navy or black rucksack for school. Such a small change has had such a positive impact on our children and the feedback received from this has been overwhelming.

Communications and the various channels used has been discussed widely this year, with parent council gathering feedback from parents around what would work best, again as a direct result from these discussions communications are now purely posted on Google classroom unless a message needs to be sent urgently, and this will be sent in text format. We hope Parents/Carers will now find these streamlined communications much more simplistic with everything being in one place.

Sporting events and before/after school clubs have increased both in the variety of clubs held and frequency, which was another subject parent council was hugely involved in. School invested for a third year running in a 'pop up' swimming pool which was constructed on the playground. The pop-up pool was met with huge positivity from all involved.

Twitter continues to be utilised to ensure and maintain the connection within the local community in Davenham. Google classroom has also become much more structured to communicate directly from the classroom including various photographs and video footage from day trips, residential and themed days here at school.

Finally, during our last meeting of the academic year, we discussed how cycling proficiency was something parents felt was important for their children and so this year Bikeability has been introduced here at school, which will look to deliver sessions to year 5 and 6 pupils who can already ride a bike. There will be further opportunities later in the year for children who cannot yet ride a bike unaided.

The Parent Council are very much looking forward to the forthcoming academic year, and together we look forward to sharing all that make Davenham such a special place and will encourage the best possible learning environment and opportunities for our children.

Kerry Parry.

Chair, Parent Council.