

Minutes of Parent Reps Meeting Thursday 1st May 2014

Present

Dan Turvey, Melanie Dye, Naomi Henning Brodersen, Angela Applegate, Merissa Patrick, Heather Gane, Zannah McLoughlin, Katie Baker, Natacha Roscoe.

Minutes of meetings

Dan advised that following mixed feedback about the distribution of information from the minutes, the Governors have requested that the minutes of this and future meetings be put on the website for all parents to access.

Admissions into Reception in 2014 and in future years

There are 6 siblings with no places in Reception in September who have been offered various schools. Dan explained he had 27 responses from the survey taken last autumn and 10 parents who did not reply. The school is dependent on what parents tell it. The school also did a survey for 2015 and there are 15 younger siblings it knows about but there may be more so Dan will redo the survey this autumn. In subsequent years after 2015 there may be a lot less siblings and so those year groups will fill up with local children. The appeals panel will decide for this year's intake.

Changes to Nursery sessions

There is a letter going out to Nursery parents this week about the changes happening in September. A report was written and discussed by Governors resulting in the changes to Nursery admissions in September 2014. The main changes are:

- The school will offer a full day provision for up to 16 children
- There will be a total of 26 children in each Nursery session so this will be a mix of full and half day attendees
- Lunch Club will still be available, and the full time children will only pay for the cost of the meal
- School will encourage parents to take up 5 sessions as there is a significant effect on funding if this does not happen. There is a cultural issue with parents who think children cannot do a full day, or 5 sessions a week, but generally the children are capable.
- School will contact parents to clarify details

Changes to the National Curriculum

Dan gave a hand-out to all reps with a summary of the changes. He explained the new curriculum is designed to raise standards and focus on English and Maths. The school will start with the new curriculum in September 2014. Levels will no longer be recorded in the same way for children. KCC will issue more guidelines in due course. 'Readiness for Secondary School' will be a standardisation at the end of Year 6. Dan believes this is a positive change as the school can build on the current Creative Curriculum with wider real life opportunities.

ACTION – Dan will send the hand-out sheet to parents. Also the whole school and class curriculums will be on our website in the Autumn.

Targets will be used in class so children know how to improve. SAT's will no longer exist in their current form but there will be something similar.

Feedback – what is working well, what can we do better?

Q Will the school employ a Modern Foreign Language teacher in September?

A No, there is no legal requirement for us to employ one. The school will continue to teach French effectively with the staff we have.

Year 2 Swimming – Year 2 will have a full long term in KS2. The school will prioritise KS2 swimming when the 2 form entry affects this. The legal requirement is that children can swim 25m at the end of KS2. The swimming coaches suggest a long term for as many years as possible. Because of the way the dates fall

this year, one of the Year 2 classes would only have been able to swim for 4 sessions which is why they are not swimming. The school will try and make the decision about who's swimming and when earlier for 2014/2015.

ACTION – Dan will put an explanation in the newsletter.

Q Can the children who take part in the Gala have a coaching session before the event?

A Dan will find out.

Bring Your Dad to School Day - parents felt the children enjoyed this, although a few parents felt it should have been called something else, but had no alternative suggestions. Some felt it should be up to parents to explain to their child about the day if they were going to get upset.

Parents thought the school grounds are looking very nice, especially the pond area which is due to the many helpers involved.

There have been ants in the Year 5/6 lunchboxes because the children have not been taking their lunchboxes home each day. The area where they are kept has also now been cleaned and the issue has been resolved.

After School Activities – If these are cancelled there is sometimes nowhere for the children to go if After School Club is full.

Q Can the school give priority to parents of children who have siblings at another school?

A Dan will talk to individual parents about this.

Some children would like a Maths club to do problem solving etc. Dan will ask if any staff are willing to run one.

The list of After School clubs for September 2014 will not be available until September as we do not know until term starts which teachers and other staff are going to be available to run clubs depending on their timetables.

If parents are waiting for children to finish a club they should wait in the parents waiting area outside Year 6, or on the front field where the benches are, and not wait on the playground.

After School Club – can Nursery children use this? Yes.

PSA Fair – Helen Jones will be contacting all reps about the arrangements for the fair.

At the end of the meeting there was an informal discussion about Facebook – Dan was concerned that class pages may be used inappropriately when discussions between parents build issues out of proportion. He asks that reps who set up these pages should set some parameters which parents are asked to respect. Dan stressed that parents should speak to staff directly when they have concerns about anything in the school rather than discuss these online. He also asked that emails that he has sent to parents should not be posted on Facebook for public display unless permission has been requested.

Next meeting Thursday 26th June at 9am