

Agenda Parents Rep Meeting Friday 16th June

Bishops Down - Kitchenette

Present: Mrs Jones, Mrs Devereaux-Bridge, Mrs Bowers, Ms Lewis, Mrs Watkins, Mrs Kirkby, Mrs Foot, Mrs Byrne, Mrs Withers, Mrs Thorp, Mrs Taylor

Apologies for Absence: Mrs Aves, Mrs Henderson, Naomi Noble Nursery

Agenda Items

1. Teaching Staff and transition days
2. Peg System
3. Explanation of Voluntary Contribution & school outings
4. All- inclusive residential
5. Gate Opening timing before and after school
6. School Dinners
7. 100% Attendance Awards
8. WAC cancellation period
9. Use of My Maths
10. Class Assemblies
11. Ability Setting
12. Digital Leaders Club
13. PSA Dinner Dance
14. Charity Performance
15. Any Other Business

Acorns Class – Nursery

‘The only question that a couple of parents had was when are we likely to find out who the reception teacher and TAs will be for the next school year? Will this be in time for the moving up sessions?’ – [The interviews are nearly completed and parents will know the staff allocation by the end of June.](#)

Beech Class

‘Firstly thank you to Mrs Parks and all the staff involved putting on the class assembly today it was lovely.

Please can parents (or give to parent reps who can filter it down for parents) be told how and when the peg system is used. Obviously 6 year olds can’t communicate it all to us and there is mixed feelings of how it is used.’ [The peg system runs throughout the school as it is a consistent way of the school controlling behaviour. It appears that the younger children cannot explain to parents how it works, so Mrs Owen explained this to the reps, pointing out that the younger children’s pegs were reset at lunchtime.](#)

‘Lots of children and parents excited about the upcoming class trip. Can the wording of ‘voluntary contribution’ be explained to parents as again there is mixed feelings over this phrase. (We are aware it isn’t really ‘voluntary’ which when you haven’t worked in the education system, or have older siblings in the school, can be quite misleading and as reps we want to support the school and ensure parents – where they can – pay so the school is not out of pocket

and can continue trips each year.)' [The school will look at how to highlight the phrase re the trip 'may be cancelled' in the trip letters for parents to see.](#)

'Opening of gate at the end of day – parents have asked if gates could be opened at 3.10 so we can get into the playground with small children and avoid trying to get in as older children trying to get out!! And parents leaving in a rush don't collide with parents coming in late.' [Apologies for this happening again, we will try to do better!](#)

'School dinners – feedback from children shows custard is still being pre-poured and at this age children aren't confident enough to ask for no custard. So if they have dairy intolerance their choice is limited to fruit (which they have at break time and/or at home) and want something more substantial like the 'steam style' puddings but with no custard!! Again children tell us portion sizes are small, and recently (from parents with older siblings in the school) have told us the food seems to have gone downhill'. [Mrs Owen will speak to the kitchen again.](#)

'The 100% attendance at the end of the school year is an unfair award; as kids can't help being ill. If it's going to be promoted again the kids need to understand why illness isn't being considered.' [We will identify those with 100% attendance at the end of every long term instead.](#)

Y2 Apple

'The Assembly was wonderful – thank you

School gates – a couple of times this week in the morning the first gate has not been opened till quite late. The parents and children have had to queue all the way round the turning circle. This could be dangerous as so many cars come up and turn here, also with the cars driving up to the carpark. Please could they be opened slightly earlier and if there is a staff meeting then please can they be opened beforehand.' [Mrs Owen will get better!](#)

'Afterschool Club – People are finding the 1 week notice for cancelling a place too long. As often playdates come up at shorter notice, and other things crop up, could it be looked into?' [Reps suggested the cancellation fee be reduced to paying one hour, rather than the whole session that the child was booked in for originally. Mrs Owen will discuss this with the Governors, although she explained that WAC has to tell staff in advance if they are working, and also order food ahead. There are currently regular review meetings and this will be discussed at the next one.](#)

'As the children have all been doing such a wonderful job with raising money for charity, do you think it would be possible to maybe do something different to show that they can give back to the community in other ways as well. For example, could they hold a tea party at school for local elderly people and then the children could show their talents like music, singing, a small performance? Maybe in Jan/Feb when the weather isn't so good?' [A tea party sounds a good idea, as does singing at a local nursing home.](#)

'PSA Dinner & Dance' [This is on 8th July at the Royal Wells – Reps please can you put this on your class pages. There are limited numbers, forms available from the office, and have gone out on email.](#)

[Request for the Camp Out form to go out again to parents – Action – office to send this.](#)

Y4 Sycamore

'There always used to be a computer/digital leaders club that was run one day a week after school for the children interested in ICT. This hasn't happened this year- are there plans for it to run next year?' [All clubs are run depending on which staff members are able to give up their time to do so. The clubs for September are currently under discussion, although we do not know where all staff will be working and which days they may be available yet.](#)

'Please could we arrange a summer outing for the class, even if just a half day somewhere? Several parents have commented about not having something scheduled this term.' [School has looked into how much money it has lost organising events for Year 4 and the details are below. In view of the amounts below, there will not be a trip before the end of term.](#)

School Office response- year 4

[11 X £8.60 not paid for the Henna Workshop](#)

[4H – 3 have only paid for half their swimming in Terms 3 & 4, and 1 has paid nothing](#)

4S – 4 have only paid for half their swimming in Terms 3 & 4, and 2 paid nothing

Total loss this year £507.61 – well on its way to the cost of a trip

'We're still struggling with some of the My Maths. Instructions aren't always that clear and no explanations when marking incorrect answers unless they go over it in class afterwards? The interactive work is great but I think some of the maths homework would make more sense done on paper with a ruler/protractor?' [Mrs Owen will remind Y4 S to send home this type of work on paper.](#)

Redwood Y5

'Has the school ever considered purchasing a school mini-bus? Seems to me this could be a possible PSA thing? Lots of other schools have one - how do they manage? The burden on parents to transport children to and from events during working hours must make things tricky.' [It would be lovely to have a minibus for sporting events etc , but the cost of purchasing/leasing one, together with the up keep, and having drivers qualified and available is prohibitive. School is very grateful to those parents who do support the children by taking their children and others.](#)

Pine Y5

'The orchestra day at St John's School was really enjoyable. Thank you to staff who made it possible. Wouldn't a school minibus make these events during school time easier?' [See above](#)

'In relation to the year 6 residential trip in October, we understand that two of the children with special needs won't (or might not be) attending due to the trip not being suitable for their physical and/or emotional needs. We appreciate that it is probably too late to change the arrangements for this trip but could you confirm that future trips will be designed to ensure that all children, including those with SEN, will be catered for? The school has always had a fantastic inclusive ethos and this is such an important trait for the children to learn that it would be a shame not to see it reflected whenever possible. Given that a number of families have already expressed a concern about the distance, the fact that it now seems that the trip/ activities aren't suitable for children with SEN suggests that Wales isn't the best option for future residential trips.

Reps agreed that the school should send children away, and as an inclusive school we should take into account the thoughts of the SEN parents.'

The school has done this as it has been in complex discussions with both SEN parents as a group and individually, and CMC with regards to making the trip fully accessible for them. These include:

- CMC has offered the SEN parents the chance to go up to the centre to see the activities and facilities for themselves beforehand (staying free of charge overnight)
- CMC have talked to us about how they can incorporate additional resources to the activities such as including building a canoe into the raft for stability for the SEN children
- CMC are able to move the site of the initiatives sessions to address access issues
- CMC have put aside the use of a fully self-contained cottage on site for SEN parents to stay during the week to be close at hand if they wish, to support the SEN children's personal/emotional needs.

[Ultimately, it is the parents' decision](#), and there is one other child who is not SEN whose parents have decided is not going for other reasons. School feels there are positives for Year 6 going away early in the year.

Larch Y6

'First of all so far really good and positive feedback re bikeability and rehearsals for year 6 production.

Only other point raised is "have the school now considered the views and requests on sets & bringing back assemblies (even if parents can't watch so all children get experience of public speaking)?"

[Setting is done for revision sessions but not for teaching through the year.](#)

It is difficult to bring back more assemblies to fit into the Autumn and Spring terms, and school feels it is good to do them at the end of the school year as the children are more confident.

Oak Y6

Reps think the number of PE sessions each week has been slipping. Mrs Owen will investigate.

When will tickets for Aladdin be available? The letter will be out soon.

Can Y6 choose one of the meals in the last week of term? Mrs Owen will find out.

AOB

Year 6 benches are going to be inscribed.

Can Y2 children please have a whole jacket potato? We will speak to the kitchen.

Parents feel the Choirs are amazing and give great confidence to the children involved.

Y4H are happy

Y3 P.E. – Maple do not appear to have P.E. yet apart from swimming?

All classes are doing a golden mile each week, and children enjoyed doing the Joe Wicks workout.

Mrs Hutu in Y4S is aiming to stay until the end of the term, but it depends on how she feels and doctors' advice.

There will be clipboards outside under the parent waiting shelter for parents to complete a form about what their child is eating for Sports Day and the 50th Birthday picnic. Please ask parents to complete these and give to the office.

Reports are coming home on 14th July.

50th Birthday – the committee still needs parent helpers please to be able to run all the stalls it wants to at the fair in the afternoon. We are planning to have 2 fair rides for which we are asking for a donation of £2 per child to be able to confirm the booking. Parents will be able to pay either by ParentPay or with cash through the office please.

Assessments

Mrs Owen shared a summary sheet with Reps called an 'Individual Assessment Summary'. It shows a purple status for where a child was last summer, and a yellow status for the current attainment. It is personalised with the child's own targets, but there are no comments. The plan is to print these in Jan/Feb before the consultations to give parents a view of where their child was at the end of the previous year. The reports show progress clearly, and the lists show what has been achieved and what needs to be worked on.

Reps felt this report was a better format than the one with red and blue boxes.

Next Meeting is Friday 7th July at 9am