

Parent Rep Meeting Friday 6th October 2017

Present: Mrs Gee, Mrs Yea, Mrs Lott, Mrs Jones, Mrs Bentley-Bowers, Mrs Lucas, Mrs Watts, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Thana, Mrs Stevenson

Policies:

There are two policies on the school website which Mrs Owen would like Reps to flag up with class parents.

1. Parent behaviour policy
2. Pupil Leave and absence

Both are found on the school website but are new or revised.

Money not paid for swimming and trips last year 2016-2017

Reception	£15.95
Year 1	£18.73
Year 2	£9.33
Year 3	£380.52
Year 4	£507.61
Year 5	£34.20
Year 6	data no longer available at short notice
Total	£458.73

So far this year we are 'down' £235.20 for current Y4 swimming (LAST YEAR'S Y3)

Lunches (general)

The portion sizes are too big or too small. [KCC have checked and confirm they are correct and constantly checked.](#)

[Children can also have salad and bread. Mrs Owen has observed children scraping away lots of food and believes that they are rushing outside to play so not staying in long enough to eat. The midday supervisors \(MDS\) are encouraging children to eat more mouthfuls before they go. There may be a change in perception of portion sizes as children now have plates and not trays. Nursery and Reception children have to sit at the tables for 30 minutes, the older children put their hands up and a MDS considers if they should eat a bit more before desert.](#)

[Paying in advance is an issue. This is the way Nourish work, and even with the old system, payments were always expected before the children ate. Credits can be sorted out with Nourish at the end of each long term.](#)

[Reps will be invited into school to try a school lunch shortly.](#)

Acorns Class – Nursery

- Why is the nursery pick up time different to the rest of the school? Most of the parents have siblings in the school therefore, it would be nice to collect our children at the same time? Is it for security reasons? [No, it is Government guidelines of 3 hr sessions. 8.45-11.45 and 1.30-3.30.](#)

Yr R Chestnut

- school gates - at the end of the day sometimes the gates to the playground for parents are being opened late so many parents have not reached the slope outside reception before the children come out. Some children have then been upset that their parents are 'late'. [Always a tricky one, but we are trying.](#)

Y1 Beech Class

- Do those entitled to free school meals (R and KS1) need to book them in via the Nourish website on a Sunday night like for the rest of the school? **No you don't – only Nursery and KS2**
- What is the policy on handing out party invites? Can the teacher/TAs do this as they did in reception? In addition, can you confirm the policy on handing out sweets/cakes for birthdays? **No sweets or cake to be brought into school. Due to allergies and being a 'Healthy school'. If cake is brought in, it must be distributed on the playground at the end of the day with the other parents present to say yes or no to eating it. No to distributing invites, again give them out on the playground as we get complaints when a child has been missed out of the guest list- it appears we are condoning it if we hand them out.**
- There have been some comments on the weekly spellings consisting of eight, being too many and too difficult. Some of the children are struggling to firstly read the spellings, let alone spell them. In addition, eight spellings is proving quite hard for some. **I will feed that back to Mrs Parks.**

Y2 Apple

I don't know what the quality is like, one of my kids thinks it's fine, the other thinks it's not as good, but the issue for me is the lack of convenience. Previously, we could decide on the day whether to have a packed lunch or a school dinner. Now we have to decide and pay the weekend before. That is much less convenient. I would not object to paying in advance, provided that if the lunch is not used it becomes a credit. That is fine. But if, as I think is the case – you lose the money if you do not have the lunch – that is rubbish. I see how as the provider it works better; they are much better able to plan – but from the parents' perspective – it is much less convenient. I have been at work all week, and tonight I was scabbling round trying to find something to make a packed lunch. It is rubbish. Could you raise this please? Mrs Owen asked for feedback, and the feedback from me is that it is much, much less convenient. I would like to revert to the previous system if possible. As I say, it is not a direct issue for us in this class, but it will be next year if they keep this provider. **Sorry this is not possible with the new provider.**

- Please could we get more information on the Golden Mile that the children are doing, and the Joe Wicks workouts that are also being done. **Joe Wickes- I've just announced my first ever Schools Fitness Week, where I'm aiming to get 1 million kids feeling the benefits of exercise with live workouts for schools. Lots of schools joining in, all classes are aiming to do the Golden Mile but it takes a while to set up and become established. It is about health and well-being, we are trying different options in school and Mrs Tizzard will be asked to send out further information.**
- Would it be possible to clear up when the children are allowed to go to the toilet? A number of parents have raised that their children are coming out of school desperate for the toilet and saying they are not allowed to go. In some cases, children have actually wet themselves. **Children can go at any time but are encouraged to go at playtime and lunchtime.**
- Finally a few parents have asked us to raise the water bottle situation. Many of the children are coming out with their water bottles full. Is there any way they can be reminded to drink throughout the day. **They are encouraged to drink and they do refill from the water dispenser. They are available in the classrooms too.**
- Are Y2 spellings going out correctly? **We will check.**

Y3 Maple

- Children are coming out late from class at the end of the day regularly. **Mrs Owen will talk to staff.**

Y4 Sycamore

- One of the parents got in touch and wishes to raise an issue of the new school lunch provider. He is not worried about the actual quality as such, but the lack of convenience that this new system brings. In his own words:

Previously we could decide on the day whether we want packed lunch or a school dinner. Now we have to decide and pay the weekend before. I would not object to paying in an advance, provided that if lunch is not used it

becomes a credit. I would like to revert to a previous system if at all possible." [Sorry this is not possible with the new provider.](#)

In addition, I have received another email from a different parent who asked for the following items to be raised:

- Could the school remind new parents of the one-way system in & out of the school - the markings are not as clear as they used to be and several new parents seem to be unaware of the system. [Yes, this will be mentioned on the newsletter.](#)
- Bike sheds - more and more children seem to be cycling to school, which is great, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to fit all the bikes in bike shelter and lock them securely. Would the school consider an additional shelter (Perhaps in conjunction with PSA)? [Yes, school will ask the PSA.](#)
- School meals. - Overall happy with the quality of the food, but my children commented that the portions are not as generous as they used to be. [Portions are the same size and salad bar and bread is 'help yourself' so children can fill up if they want to. We will organise a day for reps to have a lunch with the children so you can see for yourself.](#)

Y4 Hazel

- Size of food portions and meal availability raised as issues, also need to book ahead makes it less flexible and convenient for families
- Can school use Rose Hill's new pool facility when it is finished next Feb, instead of going to St Johns? [We have enquired but do not have confirmation yet.](#)
- Year 6s having phones in the playground first thing – can this be addressed? [Yes, I will speak to year six teachers to remind children they have to put their phones away before they enter the school gate.](#)
- Congratulations to Miss Hepden on becoming Deputy Head but what does that mean for Hazel class teaching provision? Concerns that it will eat into her class time. [This will mean that she is out of class for 2 days a week. There is an advert out for a teacher, although Miss Hepden will still do all the planning for the week.](#)

Y5 Redwood

I often take my friend's two sons to school (year 4 and 6) as well as Lawrence. All three have mentioned that the lunch portions are too small! I remember mentioning this to Mr Turvey when I was a class rep in year 3 for Leo's class, but nothing was done. He told me the portion sizes were 'perfectly adequate'.

Anyway, be grateful if you could highlight this. I understand food has been running low for the older years recently, to the degree one of my friends had to go in to show the portion size! [Portions are the same size as they have always been, salad and bread is unlimited.](#)

Pine Y5

School Meals - The children love the new food and the fact that they can choose when they see the choices in front of them rather than being asked in the morning.

Apparently sometimes when they are amongst the later ones having lunch most of the choices have gone.

Sometimes the children seem to be able to have seconds and sometimes they have stingy portions that leaves them feeling hungry. [Portions the same size as they have always been, salad and bread are unlimited.](#)

Could we have an auto top up for the school lunches like before? [No, this is not possible with the Nourish system.](#)

Walking to school solo - Please could we have clarification on when/who/where year 5 can walk to and from school solo. [Y6 are allowed to walk to and from school. Y5 can walk solo if we have written/mailed consent so we are aware that it is happening, although neither year group should be escorting younger siblings.](#)

[There is an unofficial 'walking bus' happening from Rusthall as a number of parents are waiting for each other to come through to school, which is great.](#)

Golden mile - Could we have a proper explanation about the golden mile and the Joe Wickes exercises that the children are talking about. I am fully behind it but would just like to actually know what it is. [See above.](#)

Parking - Can the school please formalise a proper plan (traffic cones/ portable barriers/ volunteer wardens handing out tickets??) to tackle the persistent offenders blocking the turning circle at drop off and pick up, because nothing seems to be working so far! [School is constantly looking at more ways to improve the situation. Parent volunteers would be useful – please feel free to put our ‘bad parking’ forms under windscreen wipers. The PCSO is now allowed to issue on the spot fines and so we will ask them to come by more often.](#)

School Logo - Could we have the new logo on a material badge that we can sew onto uniform, which would mean that we could reuse uniform from older children that is still fit for purpose? [There is not one available, sorry.](#)

Year 6 residential trip - Before it is booked for next year can it go back to Essex or closer. Two full days travelling has taken away days where they could be doing other things. [No, currently this is the trip of choice.](#)

A 5.45am start is unacceptable!

It is not accessible for the SN children who if it was closer could have attended on a daily session. We are a school that promotes its PD unit therefore this needs to be taken into consideration. [PD needs were taken into consideration with many discussions with parents early on in the arrangements, building the itinerary around their needs. Ultimately, it was the parental choice.](#)

School Trips - Please can the school look at how they liaise with parents who volunteer for school trips? They say on the form they will only contact you if you are needed. Would it be possible to contact every parent who has ticked the yes box to be told whether they are needed, as it can be difficult to make other arrangements if they are not sure? [Yes, good point, we will ask staff to contact you either way if you have offered.](#)

Y5 Survival Camp - Could we have some feedback from this going forward in preparation for the Y6 residential? [Yes, we will try to arrange this.](#)

11+ parents want more guidance on this from school. [It is down to Kent to issue this, and parents to be proactive in arranging visits to secondary schools throughout the year.](#)

Sports opportunities - Mrs Tizzard gives the children many opportunities for various sports, thank you.

Spellings - Would prefer if they were also asked for a sentence demonstrating they know how to use the words and what they mean. Found that the child can spell the word but does not necessarily know how to use half of them, so it seems a little pointless. [I will raise this with Miss Ritchie](#)

There have been many positive comments about Miss Richie by parents and children. Everyone seems very happy with her.

Y6 Larch - none

Y6 Oak- none

AOB

There is still congestion at pick up time where the TARDIS used to be as parents wait there rather than moving into the playground. [Mrs Owen will put a reminder in the newsletter.](#)

Parents like the fact that homework is only times tables, spellings and project work.

Miss Ritchie is well liked.

Maths sheets – now they are on double sided for Y5 this works well, please can other classes do this too? [Yes, and Mrs Owen has the name of a school where you can download the sheets for ‘Hit the Button’](#)

Breakfast Club seems to have less options for breakfast available at less times, has this changed? [We will investigate.](#)

Next meeting will be Friday 8th December @ 9am