

Parent Reps Meeting 8 December 2017

Present Mrs Yea, Mrs Lott, Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Zeeman, Mrs Farrimond, Mrs Oakenfold, Mrs Sloan, Mrs Lucas

Acorns Class – Nursery

Please can future nativities and assemblies be in the morning and not afternoon to accommodate full time working parents please. First time parents were not aware of the system.

Unfortunately, not everyone is going to be pleased whichever time we choose, and we only need one performance, as there are fewer children.

Y1 Beech Class

Parents wanted to thank the school staff in general for everything they do. It's appreciated.

Overall, everyone is pleased with the quality of The Nourish food and wanted assurances to make sure that this will continue to be the case.

One parent really struggled at the parents evening being in the hall with all the other teachers and parents. She is not a native English speaker and found it very difficult to understand Mrs Parks with all the noise. She found it very pressured to keep to the time.

Perhaps a separate appointment would be better with less background noise? Mrs Owen will discuss this with the teacher.

Another parent felt there was not enough time per consultation slot.

Reps were reminded that Parents can use the teachers' drop in times for something specific and lengthier to discuss, and she will re-promote these. Please can Reps feedback that if parents do book slots, that they should turn up for them please so teachers can maximise use of their time during the evening. School will do more reminders and please can Reps do so too.

One parent has not been very impressed with the organisation/admin side of WAC and wondered if anyone else has trouble. She raised the point that there was an issue with the register (knowing when kids were booked in/cancelled). She also said there has been an ongoing problem for over a year with her invoice/(s) being incorrect with the reason being the system that is used makes it like that. It still has not been corrected.

Mrs Owen will discuss this privately with the Class Rep.

One parent wondered if there could be a donation system for nativity costumes whereby nativity costumes that will not be used by the family are gifted to the school for use next year, especially as the same parts come up each year (shepherd, star, angel etc).

This is a good idea, Mrs Owen will talk to KS1 staff.

Y2 Apple

Will the school video be available from school? No, it is available on You Tube to download by everyone if they would like it.

Y3 Maple

There was some very bad and inconsiderate parking on the evening of the school discos before Christmas.

Mrs Owen will send an email before the next one to remind parents about parking.

Y4 Sycamore

Nothing to report

Y4 Hazel

The children all enjoyed the ice-skating. There is some confusion over who will be teaching in Y4 Hazel following Miss Hepden's promotion to Deputy Head Teacher after Christmas.

Miss Reynolds will be teaching on Mondays and Fridays, while Miss Hepden will be teaching on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Forest School will change this when it is their turn as Mrs Bell will be teacher in charge on this day.

Are there sufficient TAs for the class?

There is 1:1 with one child, which does not change, and then other staff, but sometimes these have to cover other classes due to staff illness etc.

Y5 Redwood

1. Great Christmas Fair, the children really enjoyed it and the whole school looking so festive. Nice use of the whole school too, so not congested.

There was generally less stock, but please feedback to Miss Hepden that selling items made by children was good.

2. The peg system appears to be demotivating my children in different classes. This is a big conversation at home between them on a regular basis (unprompted). They seem to be confused as to why a peg can be given for 'first one sitting up arms crossed' but a methodical piece of work done well and praised receives no green peg. How, if a child is spotted first doing something right but other children in the class have also done the required 'ask' at the same time, do not receive a peg because of the direction the teacher happens to be looking in. How unfair it is that children who work well and don't get into trouble often, might slip up once and get a red peg, yet another 'naughty' child can perform the same behaviour several times (the same day) and a red peg not given out. How, if the young child might look out the window got a red peg for 'daydreaming' when they were trying to think of an answer for their work!

If there are special measures for some children that is fair enough, but make it fair for the children who perhaps cannot help naturally doing what is asked of them as they need praise and recognition too. There appears to be inconsistencies across staff covering in the week, which they also find confusing and frustrating. As a parent, it's disheartening to hear school being all about pegs and not just enjoying school. I would be disappointed that they are more focused on that than enjoying learning and being able to feel proud of their, and their classmates achievements, without looking for a 'peg'.

Mrs Owen will raise this with staff again and give them examples

3. Please pass on that my girls really enjoyed the disco. They said the new DJ (a Dad at school) was way better than last year!

4. The lack of notice for signing up for consultations would be my negative feedback. Even an email the night before would have been helpful for parents who work to ask someone to sign them up a slot. (This comment was aired by four other parents who cannot get into school so had to email the school directly and some try to tally up other class slots via other parents).

More reminders of when sheets will go out will be sent.

5. Playtime, football especially in our class is becoming fraught with only one ball allowed. Some boys would like to play in different groups but with one ball to share the 'more dominant boys' get to dictate who plays. Can more than one ball be allowed and retrieved if kicked over the fence to reduce the amount of arguments and upset caused.

There are rotas and staff do stick to them. We have 2 TAs who oversee the playground equipment.

6. Also, thanks to Nourish for giving credits to use when your child misses school.

7. Dates lists on the back of newsletters are good.

Pine Y5

Nothing to report

Y6 Larch

Poor quality white board in class

This class has the last of the old boards but it will not be replaced due to the loss of the next class in July 2018

School lunches could be better and portion size & why can't you store bank details on site.

Mrs Owen met with the owner of the company, Nourish, and she is having a look at the payment system and may go back to SQUID.

There is a balanced diet, quantities are standard and follow the nutritional guidelines, and school is still throwing food away. Please remind children that there is a limitless salad bar and bread available for those children having a school lunch.

The previous management was possibly over generous with portion size.

There is a difference between portion size for KS1 and KS2.

Why had happy birthday song been banned

It has not been banned, just stopped from being sung in the dinner hall as the unexpected noise level can have an adverse effect on other children

Netball club/team issues - some girls feeling left out as not picked for team matches and therefore giving up the club.

Mrs Owen will speak to Mrs Gebbie re this

New student feels welcomed by class & school

Clarify packed lunch rules please.

School will reissue the packed lunch leaflet. Mrs Owen confirmed that children can use the bins in the school hall at lunchtime for their packed lunch rubbish

Y6 Oak

Nothing to report

AOB

Please remind parents of the 'Parent Behaviour Policy' and 'Children's Behaviour Policy', both of which are on the school website.

The Nourish Menu will be on the school website, and on the parent noticeboard.

School has to move TA's around to cover staff illness. High Needs funding, which is used to help support certain children, is getting more difficult to obtain, and has been cut by 1/3 per child.

Reps asked if school could send reminders to all parents to pay for due items, and let them know how many parents had paid up to that point, e.g. only 50% have paid so far for this term's swimming. **The office will try to do this.**

Please can the school name and shame in the newsletters car registrations of those parents who are parking badly near school. **Yes, we will.**

Next meeting Friday February 2nd at 9am