

Parent Reps minutes of 10th June 2016

Present Mrs Aves, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Domzalski, Mrs Lott, Mrs Oakenfold, Mrs Hockett, Mrs Clark, Mrs Turvey, Mrs Litchfield, Ms West

Introduction/What is going well?

Mrs Owen introduced one of the Governors, Steven Farthing, to the Reps, then asked them to consider what is/had gone well recently.

- Reception – children were very excited about the Mobile Farm visit, and Sports Day was good.
- 2 Apple – Sports Day was very inclusive.
- 3 Mulberry – Sports day had successfully mixed different aged children together.
- Y6 – Leavers hoodies!
- 4 Sycamore – Sports Day finished on time.
- 5 Redwood – Sports Day peer support was very good.
- 3 Maple – Sports Day, everyone supportive and inclusive.
- 4 Hazel parents enjoyed the whole school Sports Day picnic.
- Reception – the music provided at the PSA fair was great.

School Trips

Something is now booked for Year 4 in school following the cancellation of their visit to London to see Cats in November.

Year 6 Residential for 2016/17 will be discussed at another time.

Year 5 Residential – Reps asked ‘what does the payment being asked for from parents cover?’

- creation of a customised programme and lesson plan of activities to suit pupils’ requirements
- health and safety risk assessments
- provision of bush craft equipment and learning materials
- delivery of the supervised bush craft experiences
- provision of appropriate tents – all the above provided by the company
- food and drink

Mrs Owen said that generally there were not so many trips out, and the school was looking to get more people coming in as coach prices were so high.

A replacement trip for the cancelled Y5 London trip last autumn has not been organised as there is not enough time left in the term.

Last Inset Day teachers planned the whole of next year’s curriculum so each year group will have a ‘Stunning Start’, ‘Marvellous Middle’, and ‘Fantastic Finish’ event.

The timing of Sports Day

Sports Day was earlier this year due to trying to get it into the diary of a busy term. Reps asked that it could not be put into the same week as an INSET day as some parents were unable to cover the INSET day and Sports Day with work. The drama room toilet for parents use ran out of toilet paper during the afternoon, despite being checked by staff, so apologies for this. Adrian has been off ill for some while and so Mrs Owen apologised for housekeeping slipping slightly, although staff were doing their best.

Teaching staff notifications

Mrs Owen communicates what she can when she can, but explained that some things need to be kept confidential.

Sophie Stock is in Year 4 but Miss Hepden is still in class teaching. She has to occasionally step in to the Deputy Head role in the absence of a Deputy Head in school, but still does all the planning for Hazel class. Some parents felt they were not told that Sophie was doing her Teaching qualification and so would have preferred separate notification to the class first. Year 4 parents feel that after a 'bad Y3' they need to have a good Year 5 teacher.

Mrs Owen is looking for full time teachers as requested by Class Reps, but there is a shortage of teachers generally nationally.

Year 6 cycling tests

This has not been booked for this year, for which Mrs Owen apologised. Next year's tests will be booked soon.

Parent assemblies

Frequency – this had to change in the autumn to ensure we were covering the curriculum, so this is why they are all in one term.

Timings – Some parents have 2 in one week which is difficult. Mrs Owen explained this was because it was such a busy term they had to be booked in like this. Parents felt that 2.30pm was a bad time to hold them, but Mrs Owen explained that core curriculum has to be covered in the morning. She will aim to move to 2 class assemblies per school year for 2016/2017. There will also be learning celebrations (where parents go into classrooms to look at books and work) at 3pm more often so children can show off their work to parents. Mrs Owen confirmed that generally the school was in a good position ready for Ofsted.

Funding of the Year 6 play

Year 6 parents were disappointed that they were being asked to pay for the copyright for this. Due to cutting budgets, Mrs Owen had to change this and ask parents to contribute to the cost. Reps advised that there were ways to get scripts without costs, but it was too late now. They were also disappointed that there were only 8 main parts for the play and Mrs Owen confirmed she has asked that more parts were written in.

Update – since the Reps meeting a substantial private donation has been received towards the cost of the copyright and Y6 parents are no longer being asked to contribute to this.

Use of Archery sets purchased by last year's Y6

Reps asked why these were not being used and Mrs Owen explained that it does not really fit into any curriculum subject – e.g. as a P.E. lesson using them does not raise the heart rate which would be the goal. However, After School Club will try to use them, and she will ask the current Y6 get an opportunity to use them for their last few P.E. lessons.

Involvement and Communication with school

Looking at school work – parents have had one opportunity this year and will get another shortly; School will aim to arrange for 3 times a year.

No. of trips – Coach Fees are increasing and so the school is looking to get more people to visit us.

Family Days/Sharing lunch with children – reps felt Dads/Mums/Grandparents days were good. Mrs Owen will consider re-introducing something.

Reporting system (not so personal) - the end of year reports will be more personal. In the future parents will be able to look at the levels from home via a Parent Portal. The red and blue colours on the reports reflect what the school has taught, whilst the CATs show reasoning and are used by staff for 11+ considerations. There was a suggestion of termly progress updates/drop-ins and this will hopefully be 3 times a year.

Introducing more accessible awards

Suggestions from reps were a Kindest Act, Most Progressed Child, Artistic Ability, Public Speaking Ability, or Creative Thinking – Mrs Owen will publicise further the ones we do already, such as Learning Legends, and Artist of the week.

School Uniform

Reps asked about the deadlines for phasing in the new logo – V-neck sweatshirts will be compulsory by September when the crewneck ones will be solely for P.E. use. Hand-me-downs of the old logo V- neck sweatshirts and old logo knitted jumpers will be ok until July 2018.

As the school has bought up all the old stock at Price and Buckland to use as spare clothes in school, all the uniform on the website has the new logo on.

Reps were asked to spread the word that there are still Navy uniform shorts and trousers available from the school office in limited sizes.

It is not possible for logo badges to be sewn on.

INSET Days on Fridays as well as Mondays?

KCC schools have to comply with Kent term dates, whilst academies have more flexibility. These are also booked up to 18 months in advance with other primary schools and trainers. Mrs Owen will try to have one on a Friday.

New Parents Meeting

Parents were not happy with both these being on the same day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) – could one be in the evening instead? Mrs Owen will consider this for the future.

School Gates

These are still opened late sometimes for which Mrs Owen apologised. She has now asked Jo to assist when she is unavailable to do this on time.

E-cigarettes

Mrs Owen reminded parents that it was not permitted to use these on school premises.

AOB

- Water bottles – parents said children don't feel comfortable accessing their bottles in class. *Staff do encourage drinking water at break and lunchtimes*
- Adult Sports Day Race – parents said this was too competitive, can we change it to egg and spoon, or something else which was more fun?
- Sports Day – some parents had reported that children were 'told off' too much by staff, but Reps disagreed.
- Queen's Birthday – some parents felt we were not celebrating the Queen's birthday. *The school entered into the Portrait competition, and will be having a special lunch with red/white/blue tablecloths etc. Photos will be taken and put on the website.*
- Farm Visit – can there be photos of this on the website please? *Yes*
- Displays and signs around the school are looking smart with the new logo. Also the uniformity of the noticeboards create a calmness which Mrs Owen believes leads to better behaviour.
- Parents felt Mrs Owen is accessible to talk to.
- Change of dates of events – please can these be advised on the newsletter if it happens? *Yes and the original date will now be left on the website with an annotation that it has changed to...*
- Do all children have a TA move up with them to their new class? *No this is just for SEN children.*

Thank you to all the current Parent Reps for their contributions this school year.