

Parent Reps Agenda and Meeting 18th May 2018

Present: Mrs Owen, Mrs Miller, Mrs Jones, Mrs Yea, Mrs Bentley-Bowers, Mrs Lott, Mrs Woodroffe, Mrs Watts, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Sloan, Mrs Merrin (Chair of Governors)

Main topic for discussion - School reports

Mrs Owen introduced Kate Merrin, Chair of Governors, to the Reps. Opinions were then sort from the Reps about the school reports. Mrs Owen explained why the previous style of reports were set out in the way sent home. Reports are produced from the Target Tracker software. The reports show information for statutory purposes but are not 'parent-friendly' and do not include much personal information about the child. Mrs Owen invited discussion from the Reps as to what they wanted to see in reports.

Reps suggestions/comments were:

- A new grading system such as ABC/123 as used at secondary schools, BUT may be too complicated for Primary age.
- It is important to know your child is seen to be trying
- Can we have a mid-year type report with a personal comments section together?

Reps were split into 2 groups to discuss the samples given out by Mrs Owen which have a whole page of personal comments for the child.

Q What do you value in the report?

Group 1 replied that comments show the teacher really knows the child, would like more about how much effort is being made, more comments on behaviour, to cover all subjects including Art, Sport, and Music, does the child appear happy, how do they get on with their peers? The mid-term reports are fine but would like more personal comments on the end of year report from the teacher, and also head teacher comments.

Group 2 wanted an explanation of the graph. The progress graph does show where they were at the end of the previous year, but parents expect improvements so is this reflected in the report? On a sample, the report shows only the result for the curriculum for that year only. Reps felt here is no need to have a photograph on the report, parents would prefer the space is used for personal details or the child's comments. A Headteacher comment is good. Can the report be dated? Can a class with split teachers have a report/comments from both of them.

Yes.

Reps asked if there needs to be different information in the reports for children in Y1 to Y6?

Mrs Owen explained that this does not take place for the lower school but does for Y5 & Y6 for the individual subjects as the children get closer to Y6 SATs and secondary school. There is certain statutory information which has to be included depending on the child's age such as Y1 Phonic results, Y2 SATs, Y6 SATs and attendance.

Reps felt the current Y2 SATs have all been very low key and the pressure has been kept off Y6 for their SATs, with a great homework sheet the weekend before to go and have fun and relax. Reps wanted comments about the children's input into music in school, and representing the school in Sport. Can the children's comment include what they think they have done well?

Class/Year Feedback from Parents

Beech Y1

The green and red ladder behaviour/ rewards could do with a review. It's good in the sense that it's easy for the children to understand and is used across the whole school but my child has been getting really upset that it's so difficult to see Mrs Owen for good work - he has often come out saying he's tried really really hard and gone up the ladder but then "got stuck" and can't get any further.

How do school ensure different parents get the opportunity to go on school trips and not the same parents from individual classes each time?

If less than the required number volunteer, then they are all invited, and the shortfall has to be made up with TA's from other classes. If there are more than required, then at a reasonable time before the trip (to give parents fair warning), names are pulled out of a hat. It does sometimes happen that parents volunteer after the decision has been made as their form has come back late, so they have not been included in the draw.

Pine Y5

- Would it be possible for the parents' race at sports day to be a fun race? 3-legged, obstacle course, egg & spoon, a combination of all of these? Unfit, non-sporty, 'rubbish at sports types' would like to model the 'taking part' to their children but do not want to embarrass them with the always-competitive parents' race. Can parents be involved in a planning meeting for sports day?
[Yes, a meeting has been booked.](#)
- Are you able to confirm if the library will be moving into the corridor classroom in September?
[This will depend on the children's needs, which cannot always be finalised very early due to discussions currently taking place re new children starting. However, it is likely that it will stay where it is for another year.](#)
- Thank you for the Y5 transition meeting - It was very helpful.
[The PowerPoint from the meeting for parents who could not attend are on the school website.](#)

Redwood Y5

School Council Trip

School Council Trip to The Houses of Parliament - a big thank you to both Mrs Parks and Mrs Magee for organising a great trip for the members of school council. It was a fantastic learning experience for the children with the added bonus, for them, of seeing Theresa May!

Grandparents/Parents/Relative Day

This was being discussed when I was parent rep last year, as they have not been run for a few years now. Are you able to get an update, as I am not sure if it has fallen off the rolling agenda? It would be great to offer something that was as inclusive as possible for all children (as I know not everyone has grandparents for example).

[We are looking at organising a community day involving Y6 hosting.](#)

School Events on Same Day

Wednesdays - the majority of school events which require parental involvement, e.g., book look, class assemblies, sports day and trips to Houses of Parliament (which required drop-offs and pick-ups during the day) are being held on a Wednesday. Are we able to rotate the day as this can be very difficult to manage for working parents and this term (Easter to Summer) is proving particularly problematic with multiple events being held on Wednesdays. Having Book Look day on a different day to class assembly is not working for several parents.

[Unfortunately, Wednesday is the ideal day for school, fitting around other things on the timetable.](#)

Nourish

Standard of meals has dropped and not so nice, often they have run out and portions are reduced if at very end of lunch queue.

The special menu day is overlooked (could a reminder go out?) and so my children look at the menu and request packed lunch only to find the meal was swapped for a special day menu.. Can it be communicated a little clearer? Especially when it was switched with no notice!

Credit system was raised by four parents. It is unclear as to what credit is on each account, when due to go overdue, missing the deadline, what child has eaten and in which day. It is very confusing and when a credit note does come

back, you have to sort out which week they missed, as it doesn't account for it. It would be useful to see this information as it is impossible to account. Sometimes the credit notes do not make it home.

Additionally, emails have been sent at the beginning of Easter and never heard back!

Mrs Owen has a meeting with heads from other local school who use Nourish to talk to the person above the Area Manager from Nourish after half term. Nourish will possibly move over to School Comms (Gateway) in due course regarding payments. If parents have complaints about Nourish, please email the area manager and copy in Mrs Owen. The contact details will be on the next newsletter. KCC do regular checks on the food quality, and Mrs Owen can raise concerns to them as well.

Sports Events

Organisation of sports events is difficult to plan around and seems disorganised. It is great the children have the opportunity to attend but prior notice is often too short. A few days sometimes and feedback to enquiries is too slow or confusing.

The school aim to give 2 weeks' notice for all sports events, and the sooner the initial replies come back the quicker we can then get out reserve letters to parents if some children are unable to attend.

Eg: Parent help was requested for this week's pentathlon on Monday pm. A parent responded Tues am that they could possibly help and could it be confirmed they were required. Wed evening they heard they could share the role with 3 others. It was not clear if they were definitely needed or surplus - so they withdrew to work instead, as notice was too short and indefinite.

Eg: Football Kent trials was overlooked - although apology came out - the Tunbridge Wells trial had already happened the day before. Other trials were in Paddock Wood the following evening. This was a logistical nightmare and the opportunity missed for some.

Can the children have longer to practice so they feel confident at such events? Athletics is sadly not often supported yet the children are enthusiastic and proud to do well. Other school do lots of practice, which means good results. In addition, children are swapped in and out at events and get upset.

Mrs Owen will consider slimming down the number of events the school enters next year so children have a chance to practice more.

Yr5/6 football unfortunately disbanded yet they have a tournament half day Saturday and no practice since Term 3. (Thanks to Peter Burke for volunteering which is appreciated).

Reps believe that some parents may be willing to help with sports clubs. As the dates are out early for some of the tournaments, why does it always seem such a rush for school?

The cricket coach coming in each week for Y4 is well received, as is the other Sports Partnership coaches who have been teaching Hockey, Athletics and Golf.

Sports Day

Last year there was a lot of feedback which was received as very disappointing by the school. Parents had offered help, as they were willing to work with the school (eg: mowing the grass, highlighting lanes, etc). Will this be picked up again, as it was parked until a later date?

Some Class Reps joined a meeting with Mrs Owen and Mrs Tizzard on 24th May to discuss this. The request to Landscape Services who maintain our grounds has already been sent asking for the grass to be cut for Sports Day. (This was sent last year as well but they did not attend).

PSA

It is worrying to hear the PSA might fold at the end of this year. They have been great for the school and bringing new parents together and hugely beneficial financing school equipment. Do you intend to promote this more or find a way for it to be re-managed - some schools choose a specific year to run it (e.g., Year 3).

The current money will go towards the new fencing. Mrs Owen will think about how to encourage more parents to get involved.

Year 5 Secondary Transition Meeting

Really good and informative meeting. So great to know that Mrs Owen supports the visiting of schools during school time and the importance of such visits during this decision making process.

Maple Y3

- The assembly was great this week. It was not too long, and every child had a chance to talk and present – thank you – this has been mentioned by many people.
- I would like to enquire why Year 3 do not seem to be taking part in any sporting events? I have an older child and I am sure that they were going to sporting events in Y3. It may be that my child just has not been **chosen. I also feel that Mrs Tizzard plays favourites and always chooses the same people (said as a parent of a child who is always chosen) which I just do not think is fair.**
- **School Meals – it seems that the quality is slipping again. In addition, the system for giving credits does not really work, as the slips of paper always seem to go missing.**
- [See the response under Y5 Redwood.](#)
- Thanks to all staff as ever for their efforts
- They have only been to Drusilla's and Tesco's since reception. Could they have one? Many parents have brought this up. They do appreciate the issue of non-payers but think you should just hound them until they pay!
[There is a trip planned for Y3 in July.](#)

Hazel Y4

- Big Maths Beat That – sometimes the teachers are sending home the same sheets each time.
[Please speak to the teacher about this.](#)

Nursery

- Please can the Nursery teacher provide a Tapestry print out at report time?

Year 6

- Can Y6 choose the school lunch on the last day of term in July please?
- [Mrs Owen says this will be ok, the Y6 teachers will organise this.](#)
- Why can the Y6 children not wear their hoodies during all of term 6?
- [The hoodies are not part of the school uniform, and are organised by the parents. Previous Headteacher's may have allowed them be worn all Term 6, but the agreement now is for them to be worn for the last day of each short term as set out to Y6 parents last September.](#)
- The Y6 production donations from parents have now covered the cost of the play, thank you.
- Praise for all Y6 staff re SATs

AOB

Swimming costs were discussed.

[Mrs Owen will speak to Rose Hill School about using their pool.](#)

[It was suggested that the agenda always starts with actions from the last meeting to aid transparency and communication, it was felt that this was a good idea and as a result this will be introduced at the next reps meeting.](#)

[Next Meeting is on Friday 6th July at 9am](#)