

Minutes Parents Rep Meeting Friday 7th July

Present: Mrs Foot, Mrs Wookey, Mrs Sloan, Mrs Kirkby, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Sandor, Mrs Jones, Mrs Bentley-Bowers

Acorns Class – Nursery – no comments

Reception Chestnut

We are all really sad to be leaving Mrs Holiday. She has been an amazing reception teacher and fantastic with the children.

Please can class assemblies go back to the mornings? So many working parents struggle with the 2:30 timing and virtually no dads are making them anymore. As it's only one a year surely it can't make that much difference to school. [We will consider this for next year. If this happens we would have to put the 'book looking' on different days at 3pm.](#)

Gates are still consistently opening late – [Yes, we know, sorry!](#)

Y1 Beech

Please find below the comments from Beech Class. Generally everything is going well and parents have enjoyed various PSA and school events that are relevant to the class. They enjoyed the class assembly and the chance to see the children's work.

School trip:

1. The children had a good time at the Sea Life centre.
2. There was a concern some children are on the cafe floor inside as chairs were limited in the area our school was allocated. This wasn't hygienic at all.
3. Is it possible for the coach to have a toilet for younger children? There was a bucket for emergencies which was in use for potential travel sickness so the option wasn't there. My son was upset he had to hold on for the entire journey home. He didn't think he could ask so kept quiet, (he's become nervous to ask for the loo as he naturally goes quite frequently, and has been told to hold on until he finishes his work. He did have an accident in class recently due to this). [Coach with toilets is cost prohibitive as mentioned at the last reps meeting. A letter of complaint has been sent to the Sea Life Centre about the lack of eating facilities etc. We will ask teachers to have another bucket on board for emergencies.](#)

Teacher allocation for Year 2 - Not an issue for Parent Rep meeting but a note that a couple of parents are raising a concern about the allocation of teaching staff for next year and will be contacting you directly. Some other parents, who are unaware of prolonged teacher absence, have had the issue highlighted and so if it is prudent to reassure the class as a whole it might be worth it. There is not widespread concern but what happens with cover should long term absence occur.

Y2 Apple

Do we know if Mrs Akers will be back before the end of term? [Back on Monday, for half a day and then back to normal working days.](#)

Clubs - Great idea to sort clubs for next academic year in this term avoiding the mad panic in September

Assemblies - Is there any chance that they could be in the morning? Right in the middle of the working day is very hard for those who work. It worked really well when they were at 9.15am. [Will consider as above. Also we will try to do some in Terms 3 & 4 to spread them out.](#)

Attendance - Please review the procedure of certificates for 100% attendance.

This year's vomiting bug alone demonstrates how random and contagious sickness is. Children shouldn't be penalised for being sick nor encouraged to rush back to school when unwell. However, more than anything else you are an INCLUSIVE school and this is not an inclusive procedure. SEN children will never achieve this due to medical appointments, therapy, respite stays etc. Their parents are committed to their education and these appointments form part of their care they are not a choice. This procedure of certificates doesn't happen in the workplace it is another Ofsted measure. I doubt the school offers certificates to the staff (if they do we will lose as a class!)

[This was discussed at the last reps meeting and agreed that we would look at a long term, not a year to work out absence certificates. We may be able to recognise 'class of the week'](#)

School trips - Year 2 has been to the T Wells museum this year. That's it. Pretty poor and disappointing considering a large number will have visited it already throughout their lives as it is above the library in our own town. As the class is nearly all siblings, the children know what others have done.

The school is penalising the children whose parents do care about their education and do commit to the school volunteering to help etc. due to the behaviour of a few who don't pay.

If this is a true issue implement a procedure where those that don't pay don't go (apart from those who fall under hardship fund). If the parents have signed the home school agreement they have agreed to read info/letters produced by school and take action as required. Write to those parents reminding them they have signed this document and highlighting their responsibility.

I know that we have covered this in previous meetings but this parent really wanted me to include her comment – HJ

[Year 4 received a breakdown last meeting of amount owed. We will do this for all year groups so all parents can see how much the school has to cover when there is non payment](#)

Y3 Maple

The email below is something a parent in Maple would like raised, regarding the school's anti bullying policy and parents being informed when their child has been on the receiving end. Mr Wyke is good at dealing with issues.

[That particular incident was addressed. Bullying policy on the websites. Policy to talk to victim and perpetrator's parents in any incident.](#)

Y4 Sycamore

During our class visit after assembly I noticed the photo board had no photos for this year....looking on the class page on the website there also aren't any apart from December time. [We have had issues with some class web pages and so we will be changing those who are responsible for the website photos.](#)

Can we name & shame the consistent non-payers of school activities - not those that can't pay, those that won't -as this has a direct impact on school finances. (Those who feel upset about these non-payers are no small majority of the class and some strategy should be actioned I feel.)

[Can't name and shame as contributions are voluntary. We will provide a summary for each year group for reps to share with parents.](#)

Can we please have a who's who picture board in reception or on website of all the teachers. I have no idea of 2/3 of the staff, took me 6 months to figure out who the deputy head was after she arrived!

[Will look into, but staff are not keen at all. We may be able to put photos up on the wall in the entrance hall, but not on the website.](#)

FYI reps for next year are Helen Davy-Jones and Sarah Stevenson.

What is happening with Forest School next year? [Mrs Bell will be working 2 days a week next school year to do this, and we are currently working on the timetable.](#)

Y4 Hazel

Parent rep meeting notes – Are we able to put these onto the website within a week of the meeting for parents to view especially now that we are having monthly meetings? [We will try.](#)

Gates opening at the end of the day – No member of staff came to open the gate on Friday 23rd June and children were coming out of class and trying to make their way through the locked gate. Are we able to keep an eye on this? [See above.](#)

P.E – There are concerns that children are sometimes doing PE in bare feet and are potentially spreading verrucas etc. Are we able to look into this? [Gym is better with bare feet. We can remind parents about treating verrucas along with the headlice letters.](#)

Clash between cricket tournament and Hazel's class assembly - A number of parents commented on the fact that Hazel were unable to participate in the cricket tournament as it clashed with the timing for the class assembly. Are we able to ensure that we avoid clashes in future? [We will try.](#)

Y5 Redwood

No comments

Y5 Pine

Thank you for the assembly - it was great. It would be helpful if assemblies could be held in the morning so that it is easier for working parents to attend. It is much harder to attend when they are held in the middle of the day. [Will look into but it will mean not time to look at books afterwards – see above.](#)

We had understood that the school was going to let us know about secondary school open days – we have had emails about Hillview and Hayesbrook but not about the local grammar schools which have all had open days recently. [KCC haven't produced a booklet of dates this year as they have done previously. In future it would be best for parents to look on the websites of the schools they are interested in and book visits directly with them.](#)

Y6 Oak

1. Generally: THANKYOU! All staff - senior, teaching and support staff for everything you've done for our class this year and since they arrived at Bishops Down!

2. Specifically: "Please can you pass on how much the work that is going into the production is appreciated. I think it is fantastic that through having 4 performances, so many children have the opportunity to shine! It must be a huge amount of work and a lot of delicate juggling!"

If anything else crops up between now and Friday I'll drop you a note otherwise that's it from us (SOB)

Michelle and Naomi x

Y6 Larch

First of all lots of gratitude and thanks for the effort that has gone into ensuring two year 6 school productions. It really has made a big difference to children and parent enthusiasm. Parents realise it has been a lot of effort logistically and for the teachers but do feel it will hopefully all be justified a week Mon. Much excitement! Thanks to the teachers and also parents involved - in particular Julia Refet who has helped with the production itself and both classes & Lisa Spink, Ruth Turvey and Kerry Brown who have been hard at work with the children on props and scenery as well as costumes.

The downside to the huge appreciation for the 2 plays is it has been raised as to whether the last day of term assembly will be long enough to do both classes justice? I have already said I think its unlikely school could accommodate 2 last assemblies but particularly those who have shed tears at previous assemblies feel it would, and I quote, "be a shame if they cut back on quality because they've got twice as many kids". Probably one to discuss as some suggestions have been made. [Miss Stock and Miss Ritchie have sent a class memo to explain the format.](#)

The Maths workshop Friday was really well received (well apart from the one room that had 10 questions on the board so people spent ages there until parents told could just do one – and one had given up by this point!). An old point but again it happened on a Friday (you will recall the discrimination against parents who work Friday point?!) and a request that those children too could be given option to win Smiggle voucher perhaps being paired with other children who had parents coming in or with say year 6 doing as a group and/or supervising younger children. Smiggle voucher a popular choice of prize. [We will try to consider children whose parents work.](#)

Finally a positive to finish on & it's a big thank you to Catherine Manktelow and all others involved from PSA with camp out, having the fire and hearing the Aladdin songs belted out with enthusiasm was a lovely addition to what was, as ever, a memorable weekend. The only negative here is not enough families experienced it – lowest numbers yet and it's a real shame. About two thirds of families who attended have children in our class as well and it would be a real shame if there was insufficient support for this event in future years particularly when with more attending it can raise a lot of money for the school and give kids and parents an easy & fun weekend!

Sports Day - Key aspects were discussed and Mrs Owen suggested that some radical changes needed to happen next year in light of the concerns raised.

AOB

- Reports will be out Friday 14th July
- Results – there is an improvement on last year with the Y6 and Y2 results.
- Phonics results for Y1 is 96%
- Children loved the Y5 Survival Camp Out
- Swimming lessons – please can we find out asap when children are swimming so parents know if to sign their children up for outside lessons? [Yes we will let you know when they have been agreed.](#)
- Second-hand uniform – having the PSA storing and trying to sell this has not worked, there has been very little demand for it during the whole year and so it will no longer be collected and resold as the PSA have nowhere to store it. The PSA suggest that parents do individual 'sale' notes on their own Facebook class pages.
- Will Bikeability be booked for the current Year 5 to do in Year 6? [Yes this has already been done.](#)
- Can we get cotton polo shirts and jumpers? [The polo shirts are already 100% cotton, and the sweatshirts/sweat cardigans are cotton rich \(60% cotton/40% polyester\).](#)

[Thank you to all the parents who have been Parent Reps this school year.](#)