

Parent Reps Minutes 21st May 2015

Present: Clare Owen, Emma Wilson, Naomi Wood-Lynch, Kavi Robinson, Jane Parish, Charlie Moore, Madeleine Youngman, Rose Payne, Gemma James, Laura Jorden, Penny Sloan

Welcome and Actions from last meeting

Nursery – Mrs Owen said the answer to ‘can we offer ‘Ad-hoc’ Nursery sessions’ is still no at the moment, but Governors will consider it.

Invoices for WAC – Mrs Owen is still looking into the possibility that these may be able to go out electronically. As we have a new IT Technician starting after the half term, she will discuss it with him.

Sweets – We have had no more reports of sweets being used in class, but Mrs Owen will crack down on the issue of birthday sweets in September.

Newsletter

Mrs Owen went through her thoughts for the newsletter the following day with the Parent Reps. She explained her priority is the quality of the teaching here, and confirmed there is currently an amount of recruitment happening. She feels the school has a great ethos, and during the INSET day on 20th April with all the staff, she got feedback from the staff to build on in the future.

Mrs Owen feels the Governing Body are very supportive of the school.

She would like all the children to take pride in the school and therefore uniform needs to be reinforced, confirming the introduction of the new V-neck sweatshirt as a phased introduction.

Hand-me-down crew neck sweatshirts will still be able to be worn, and when the need to replace these occurs they should be replaced with the V-neck sweatshirt, V-neck jumper, or sweat-cardigan.

Reps asked if during cold days in the summer term, girls can wear winter uniform instead. Mrs Owen confirmed she would be flexible over this, although they can wear red/navy tights under their summer dresses.

Regarding the blue polo P.E. shirts, again this will be a phased introduction and so when you buy again, please buy the blue polo shirt rather than the crewneck t-shirt.

Reports - Mrs Owen is looking to change the way reports are fed back to parents, using a new software tool which will give greater detail.

Parking – there is a daily occurrence of problems and the camera car will be asked to patrol.

Feedback from Reps

Reception’s only concern was the sweets issue previously spoken about.

Year 1 feel the toilets are not clean. Mrs Owen has asked teachers to talk to children about the importance of flushing and washing hands. She is aware of a leaking tap which will be addressed.

Teachers will also discuss the junior toilets. Reps suggested the children are asked to do a poster campaign. A few parents from Year 1 do not know who Mrs Roberts is (having come back from maternity leave and replaced Mrs Cheeseman).

There will be an after school ‘Meet the teacher’ session for Year 1 Beech, and also for Year 3 Maple parents to meet Mrs Alkureishi.

Mrs Owen plans to have the ‘Meet the Teacher’ meetings for September in July, and asked the reps to consider which times are suitable.

Year 1 felt the discipline spots are over used and some children are not bothered about being sent to one. Also the persistent offenders are not noticed by changes of staff, and think it is cool to be there.

Can there be some kind of permanent record book so everyone knows who has been on the spots and how often, as they feel there may be a lack of communication between teachers and Mid-Day Supervisors. Could there be report slips which go back to teachers?

With regards to Y1 MyMaths, the reps believed communication with parents is lacking.

ACTION - Mrs Owen will talk to teachers to find out about this.

Year 2 feel that a Maths Aid would be useful. Workshops will be considered next year, and handout would be useful for parents who work.

The Y2 homework relies too heavily on parental input.

Are Whiteboard pens washable as the marks do not seem to come out of clothing when uniform is drawn on?

SAT's results are not as good this year and Mrs Owen is aware of this and working on it. The Governors are supportive of the changes which will happen. Our results will be available on the school website.

Reps felt that a lack of spelling tests is proving negative for some children. Mrs Owen advised that the new curriculum is more spelling focused, as is presentation of work.

Year 3 would like plenty of notice of when slots for swimming are planned. As St John's pool is closing for a number of weeks and there will be an extra KS2 class to fit in as well, the school is looking into options.

Reps felt Maths Passport is not working well as it is not consistent, but the school will be continuing with it.

When Miss Spoor was ill for several weeks, parents missed the consultations which were cancelled. Will there be an opportunity to have these rescheduled?

ACTION – Mrs Owen will look into this.

Year 3 thought Forest School was great!

Year 4 reps raised the issue that Kate Smith is currently appointed as 'Acting Manager' of WAC and asked when we would get a permanent one. Mrs Owen said the priority was the teachers, but she will get to WAC in due course.

Can there be more than one gluten free option for lunch for those children who are gluten intolerant? Mrs Owen asked reps to establish how many children were involved.

ACTION – Mrs Owen will talk to the kitchen manager.

Reps felt the letters home about interventions for children are abrupt and feel that personal contact would be better. Mrs Owen reassured parents that this had been addressed.

Reading guidance would be useful for Year 3, (including the change from Y2 to Y3) please. Also, can free reading levels be explained to the children so they bring home appropriate books?

Year 5 reps asked if the school would consider opening the gates to the playground at 8.30 to ease congestion on the pavements and roads.

ACTION – Mrs Owen to consider this.

Referring to the girl's cricket competition that had just taken place, reps felt that the girls did not know how to play and they should have had a practice before. Children feel Bishops Down is rubbish at sports, as generally there is no preparation for the events.

Year 6 reps had no specific comments to make.

General comments focused on clubs. Art Clubs and enjoyed and oversubscribed. Reps asked if the allocation for children could be split across the year. Also, the days clubs take place are not evenly spread out across the week, but this is due to the days the teachers and other staff are free to volunteer to run them. Gardening club is being enjoyed.

Reports

The format for reports is being changed and the plan is to give more information about the children, including objectives using software called Target Tracker which will show how children are improving. Mrs Owen is planning to share these reports with parents at the end of the year. There will be four pages, and a letter of explanation about them will come from Mrs Owen. They will cover Maths, English and Science. Children will be placed in a position within a band and some parents may be worried by this but it is because we are catching up as a school. The software makes it easier for teachers to produce these reports from the system they are already using to record progress. Clear communication will be necessary and Mrs Owen will do this carefully at a parents meeting one evening in June.

Next Meeting to be held at 9am on Friday 10th July 2015