

Parent Reps minutes of 15th April 2016

Present Mrs Oakenfold, Mrs Aves, Mrs Farrimond, Mrs Devereaux-Bridge, Mrs Domalski, Mrs Kirkby, Mrs Roberts, Mrs McLoughlin

Staffing – Y4 Sycamore teaching arrangements were discussed, and Mrs Owen will be sending out an email later today to confirm that Mrs Cowell will teach 4 days and Mrs Ashley will teach 1 day each week. Parents would very much like 1 teacher to be in place for the whole year for Sycamore class in September.

Parents will find out which teachers will be taking which classes in June.

Class Assemblies – these are all booked for June and July, and an email will come out to advise parents, they will also go onto the website. There will be one assembly per class in the summer term for parents to attend.

Volunteers – Mrs Owen apologised to Y4 Sycamore class for the fact that they never heard back about volunteers. Mrs Owen suggested they go back to Sue Solomon who is in charge of all volunteers in school. She also will clarify where volunteers can go regarding the Art Project in June.

School meals – one parent had mentioned that there had been peanuts in eth Lemon Meringue Pie recently. Mrs Owen has clarified with the kitchen that this DID NOT happen, and it was suggested that perhaps the parent misread the allergy information which is printed at the bottom of the menus.

Minutes of last Reps meeting - apologies for these not being on the website, they will be put up today.

Photos – Reps felt there were not enough photos on the website of what the children do at school. Mrs Owen will be speaking to the staff to encourage them to load photos onto the school computer system which Liz Gripper will then be able to access and put up.

Some parents would like the individual school photos taken before Christmas so they can use them for presents. This change of date can be done, it will mean that children will not miss out on an academic year photo but does mean that parents will have the opportunity to purchase individual child photos twice in one calendar year. Reps felt this was ok.

Y6 Magazine – Mrs Owen has asked the children to give parents more notice of when they will be selling this.

Reports – Mrs Owen asked reps what parents want to see in their child's report. They confirmed they want to see that the teachers know their child as an individual, and have the correct details on (him/her, he/she). Also, what are their strengths and what needs support. The next reports will give bands and levels in colours, but also have personal information. Reps felt the SEN reports had improved. There followed a discussion about standards across the board, and how Bishops Down is working closely with other local schools regarding moderation. The Y6 assessment dates are every morning w/c 9th May. The children have not been advised of the changes in the National Curriculum by the school. The results of the SATS are age standardised. CAT tests in Year 5 are done in Bishops Down to indicate 11+ ability. They will be done in Y4 and Y5 next year.

What is Time to Talk? – This is an intervention for children who school identify as needing support, for example, with home issues or mental health issues

Reception/Buddies – There are a few new parents who are not sure of the next stage, so please can the school communicate to parents how the children will start to go into school independently. This will be done.

AOB

- Y6 lessons outside have been enjoyed, as has Forest School.
- Can all children run a mile each day? Mrs Wilson has trialled this with one class last week and Mrs Owen will take this idea back to staff for discussion.
- Can the Y4 running races be split into Boy/Girl? This is unlikely, but there will be some pre-group races to try to group abilities.
- Can the gate be opened before the end of school in the afternoon? Mrs Owen admitted she did get held up opening it this week, but she will pass this job onto someone else who will be able to do it earlier each day. Parents felt the gates were good, giving privacy, and causing less distraction for the children in the Y4 & Y5 classrooms.
- Will Y6 swim this year? No.
- Gluten free meals – some parents have spoken to Debbie in the kitchen re these. Parents need to talk to her in advance, rather than the child putting their hand up in the morning to order one when ingredients are already purchased, or cooking has already begun.
- Sports Day – the date will be in the next newsletter, and on the website. We will clarify which t-shirts can be worn.
- Y6 Residential 2017 – this will not clash with eth transition dates to secondary schools, as has done this year.
- The Y5 parent meeting re secondary schools is being held next week. Y4 parents will get the same meeting at the same time next year. Next week the head of Skinners Kent Academy will be talking generally about the process.
- There is a Phonics meeting next week and an email with details will go out with details.

Next Reps meeting will be held on Friday 10th June at 9am in the Drama Room