

## Parent Reps minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Actions from last minutes - Year 6 phones – Mrs Owen is now telling children to put their phones away at the school gate.

Year 3 lunch payments – please can Reps remind parents to pay the outstanding amounts.

Spellings – Q Are they graded as there seems to be no differentiation.

A –children are learning what they will be tested on shortly, as we have now received information on what should be included. Parents are welcome to look on the Department for Education website for the details in the National Curriculum guidelines.

Walking to school behaviour has improved after Mr Bailey talked to Year 6 children.

Walk On Wednesday – the school will occasionally change the criteria to keep everyone motivated.

Feedback on the Maths Workshop for Parents - Parent Reps felt there was positive feedback from parents, and they had found it useful.

Guided Reading books in KS1 - The school is aware of the poor state of some of the books and new ones are on order, to be received shortly and paid for with funds secured from the PSA. The Year 2 change of books is being addressed. Year 1 book changing is good.

Q Can parents change books too if their child has finished reading one?

A Mrs Owen will find out if this would work, or if it would interrupt the book changing system in class.

Feedback on Homework - Parent Reps felt the feedback had been good, especially Year 4 Hazel class. Parents can see the progress being made, particularly in Year 3 Mulberry and Year 5 Pine.

Q Please can the drop-in sessions held by teachers be more spread out so that parents with more children can see each teacher if required, and can they start at 3pm for discussions without the children? Mrs Owen will ask.

Snack clarification - Mrs Owen will specify in the newsletter exactly what is acceptable as a snack for KS2 children which will follow on from the fruit and veg which KS1 children already have.

Water bottles on tables in class - Parents were concerned that children were not drinking enough in class as their water bottles are not easily accessible. Please can they be left on tables for children to use throughout the day. Mrs Owen will ask teachers to remind children to drink more.

Feedback on Behaviour - School Council were asked if they thought that behaviour had changed in school. They responded positively and said children liked the new ladders system. Parents felt it might not be so suitable for Reception children. Mrs Owen explained it was rare for her to see children because they had got to the top of the red ladders, but she often sees children for green ladder achievements. The Midday supervisors are also now using the system.

Feedback by class

Nursery – parents are happy.

Reception – Parents are concerned about the upcoming staff changes and who will be covering the class after Christmas as they feel the children have settled in well. Mrs Owen is interviewing today and hopes to announce something in the newsletter later this afternoon. Reception parents feel Tapestry is good, and would like another Maths Workshop for parents please. Reception children seem to be less interested to go to WAC as they get bored. Mrs Owen will investigate.

Year 1 – Parents are happy, they thought the visit into the woods was good, and feel the change from Reception has been smooth.

Year 2 – Some parents have reported that the teaching motivates the children and they want to achieve. As some children now go into the classroom at 8.45am they settle quicker. Traffic is still a major concern with Year 2 parents and it appears to be the same few people causing the parking problems. Mrs Owen may be able to raise the traffic issue with Bennett at a Head Teachers forum. She will leave 'Parking Notices' by the front office if parents feel they wish to put one under a car's wiper blades if it is parked badly. Year 2 Apple parents felt the Maths booklet for home is useful.

Year 3 – Maple parents find Mr Wyke approachable and enthusiastic, with good quality work on the classroom walls, and the workbooks are very well presented. Parents feel Mr Wyke knows the children well. Toilet hygiene is not so good in Mulberry class. Year 3 Mulberry parents feel the friendship classes on Mondays are helping a lot. Parents wanted to know why Year 3 classes have not been on a school trip so far. Mrs Owen explained that trips are organised to fit in with topics in class and it has not been appropriate so far this year.

Year 4 – As the Year 4 trip to see Cats in London was cancelled, the school is trying to organise playing the DVD in school and make it a theatre experience for the children shortly. Year 4 snacks are being eaten in the toilets and teachers will be checking this stops. Drop in sessions do not need an appointment, although if there is information which parents would like, it is useful for the teacher to know in advance to have this ready. The dual teaching is working well. Lunch drinking cups are not always clean – this will be passed back to the kitchen.

Year 5 – The Year 5 trip to the London Eye and Tate Modern was postponed and the school has got the money back for the train tickets, with the London Eye holding tickets for re-booking. School will need to see how it fits into the teaching. Children were spoken to about the cancellation.

Year 5 Pine parents are happy. Year 5 Redwood await the details of the new teacher due to start after Christmas. Parents would like the link to the transgender programme which was shown to the children.

Children in Need day was enjoyable with crazy socks, but children wanted to dress up.

MyMaths – there is nowhere obvious to be able to put feedback in the system. Mrs Owen advised you can change the smiley face to a sad face, or email the teacher via the office. The school will review it and feedback. The work set is reinforcement, not new learning for the children. Gaps in the children's knowledge are being identified using the software, and filled by boosting children who have knowledge missing.

Fine Dining – Mrs Owen explained that the school was trying to improve the dinner experience for children and so at the end of the week children who have been well behaved can sit at a table with a table cloth in the dinner hall.

Q Why do children have to whisper in the hall at lunchtime? A They can talk but not shout, and there is a screen on the wall to let them know if they are too noisy (traffic light system).

Year 6 – Parents wanted to know if children were still having the opportunity to stand up in front of the other children to improve confidence in assembly even though parent assemblies are not happening until the summer. Parents would still like these to happen more often even if they were shorter, perhaps without the chance to visit the classroom after.

Q Are Year 6 having PE twice a week? Mrs Owen will check.

Parents would like the whole of KS2 to have a carol service in a church as in previous years. Mrs Owen explained that Mrs Wilson was not available to run this on the date the church offered which is why it will be different this year.

Facebook – Reps discussed the use of Facebook and concluded that it should be used with care, it is inappropriate to discuss school matters on open pages, but better to restrict to closed school class pages.

Next meeting Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016