

Parent Reps Agenda and Meeting 7th December 2018

Present: Mrs Rigby, Mrs Watkins, Mrs Webberley, Mrs Horrell, Mrs Roscoe, Ms Levinson, Mrs Tootal, Mrs Abrey, Ms Twyman

	<u>Action</u>
<u>Actions from the last meeting</u>	
Parents would like all the sports events listed on the school website for the whole year please. -school is keen to do this, and is now giving 3 weeks' notice for matches	DT to action
Can Reception children line up against the fence and not in the playground?	Actioned
<u>Year 2</u> - Big Maths Beat That results are shared in class and children are finding this stressful. BMBT scores are not shared in class. Children are handed their scores on an individual basis by an adult and encouraged not to show or discuss this with anyone else.	Completed
Some reps would like to work on an Art project with the school and would like to discuss this with the Art Co-ordinator but don't know who to contact. Alison Wilmshurst is Art Coordinator, and yes school would like to do a project	Reps to contact AW
Can school have a supply of shin pads for children to use so they don't have to buy some if their child only needs them for a few weeks for a short club? School can ask for donations.	HT to action
<u>Year 5 Pine</u> – The delivery time for uniform from Price and Buckland was very long this September, much longer than normal. School to feed back to the company.	HT to action
Pen Licenses – not having one sometimes has a negative effect on the child's attitude to writing, can these be given sooner? HT will speak to the Literacy Coordinator	HT to action
<u>Booking System</u>	
Parent comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone very positive about the new booking system for parents evening. • I much prefer being able to book online despite a few hiccups and the mad rush to get a space. • I like the new booking system. Much easier than the clipboards when you are booking for more than one child! • Love the new booking system for parent events! • So much better! Really positive move forward to get more things electronic and accessible to everyone." • I think the booking system is good. • The new booking system is great, really simple, efficient and helpful. • Booking system: really like being able to book appointments etc. online - a huge improvement. Quick and easy to use. • The new booking system is great - much easier and helpful for working parents not always at drop off. • Gateway app has had positive feedback from all, however the Gateway app itself not always intuitive for example booking for the Christmas concert is hidden under events, could things be labelled more clearly? • Please can there be a basket on the App? 	Admin to action
Thank you for the feedback	

Beehive booking positive. However, no facility to amend or cancel if a mistake is made. [This is so we are able to enforce the cancellation policy. Parents are charged for late cancellation.](#)

Parent Workshops

Parent comments:

- Those who have attended the workshops have found these sessions very informative. However, many could not attend due to work commitments and it was felt that, although we all understand that you can never please everybody! But we did wonder whether more would have been able to attend if it was outside of the school day.
- Workshops Always helpful when I can get there!
- SPAG sessions really useful.
- SPAG workshops are great.
- Workshops so far have been informative and useful so please keep going with these. It would be great if the Maths one which Mr Wyke ran one evening last year could be repeated as well as one on how science is taught at BD. Please could you also share who the subject leads are in the next newsletter? [There will be a maths meeting led by Miss Brooks, and there may be a Science event for parents to attend.](#)
- Could there be an 11+ workshop or papers given for those parents who can't afford tutoring? [No, we are not permitted to coach or prepare for the 11+ in any way as a state school.](#)

Concluded

Concluded

Parking

- We are very grateful to the staff who are working so hard to prevent the dangerous parking and driving. Many showed interest in helping out with this but there was a concern that it obviously clashes with drop off/pick up time. Would children be able to enter the school 20 minutes early/be picked up 20 minutes late or have free use of the Beehive when their parents are helping out?
- MORE people seem to be driving right up to the gates - could Rydal Drive be a no go zone at school pick up/drop off times apart from obvious emergencies or those who need to drop off with SEND?
- Thanks to staff who are doing 'traffic duty' to help keep our children safe! Can't really be part of their job - but thanks anyway!
- Parking - very supportive of more visible presence in turning circle etc. Mrs W would be happy to help out in the afternoons patrolling Rydal Drive, if her daughter would be allowed to collect her younger son and walk down to meet her?
- Parking - has made a positive difference with teacher presence however there is concern around the parental rota for two reasons:
 1. What authority do parents have and this could cause contention and issues - some people are uncomfortable on the confrontation issue understandably.
 2. Is there a proposal for how children can be cared for during the times parents who are prepared to help are doing the role?
- Parents as parking or traffic attendants has not gone down well. The same parents every single morning and afternoon are running late and dropping in the traffic circle and parking across driveways. Surely, these parents should be called in and spoken to rather than expecting a number of parents who walk quite a distance to police those who do not. Understandably, there are some parents that work and have to drive down but they need to leave home earlier and stop at Coniston. The only parents driving up Rydal should be those with Blue badges. A few parents I spoke to also felt apprehensive about getting involved in policing other parents.
- It has made a noticeable difference having the staff manning Rydal Drive turning circle and congestion points. However, the feeling is that parents would not be best placed

to take over this job as they think it could potentially lead to conflict and confrontation problems. Parents do not have the authority of the senior management team at school. Have the observations been that it is the same dozen or so parents consistently offending as we thought? If so, could the school speak individually to these parents and advise them that it is unacceptable to drop off /pick up as they do and that they need to park and walk like every other parent? Dealing directly to the offending parents may be a more effective solution.

- **Turning Circle** - Option 1: Parents drop their kids, say at the junction of Coniston and Rydal given there's somewhere to turn around there and then volunteer parents walk them up to school. This would significantly reduce the number of parked cars and would remove the need for parents marshalling the parking of other parents.
- Option 2: Request for the resident that complains to monitor it. Feel it is a waste of valuable resources and some parents are in a rush and have no choice due to timings.

Thank you for the feedback. It appears that parent patrols are not popular so we will return to the idea of staff patrolling but this cannot be the same level as the last few weeks. It could be random spot checks throughout the week. The repeat offenders have been spoken to by the school.

Concluded

Christmas Tickets

- There has been a lot of feedback from parents who are extremely disappointed on the very limited availability of tickets at a key school event. Parents feel that, on this occasion, school have not communicated well with parents, as parents are unaware why the performance is not in the church this year and why, if it is at school, performances have been limited to one performance per year group thereby only allowing two tickets per family and excluding many. At a time when the school is keen to improve relations with parents and the wider school community, parents would really have appreciated it if school had communicated and consulted with parents first about how they would feel about a restriction in order to really embody the 'Tell us first' message.
- Parents feel that the approach does not embody some of the key values of BD e.g. inclusivity and empathy. In a school so full of siblings only 2 tickets per family means that either only one parent can attend or if both parents attend they will need to find a babysitter for siblings which many are unable to find and/or afford. Grandparents and other family members are also excluded. There is also concern that some parents have been subsequently advised that any free tickets will be offered on a first-come first-served basis but that this was not communicated to all in the original correspondence.
- This is one of the few events in the school calendar, which the wider community has been able to be part of and enjoy, and to exclude them is such a shame. At a time when support and help from the wider BD community is so key to school life, this feels like the ideal opportunity to reach out and really build on that community spirit.
- We would therefore like to propose a solution - that we offer either a further performance, which could potentially be one afternoon, or, failing that, that the dress rehearsal is opened up for parents to attend.

Firstly, many children were not able to participate last year due to the celebration being held in a Church. We are a Community School and whilst parents of other faiths are relatively comfortable with the broadly Christian ethos of a state maintained school, going to a Christian place of worship is not something they can take part in. We have a strong ethos of inclusion and wish for as many of our children to take part as possible.

Concluded

<p>Secondly there were complaints last year that speaking or singing roles were limited, this was due to the large number of children performing in the Church. There are now fewer KS2 children and therefore it is an opportunity to split the Key Stage so more children are able to have performance roles; more opportunities for our children to shine!</p> <p>Usually we limit the school hall to 120 parents but we have allocated 150 tickets to ensure each family gets two for the performance. Not all will be taken so we will re allocate to those who have requested additional tickets for exceptional circumstances, after the deadline today.</p> <p>There is also a request for more performances. This is not possible because of the pressures on hall space for curriculum activities such as PE and the 4 different Christmas performances taking place across the school. The dress rehearsals will be watched by the rest of the school so younger siblings will have a chance to see brother and sisters. I appreciate it is frustrating for parents but all options really were considered. I apologise for not making our reasons about the change of venue clear in advance. CO.</p>	<p>Concluded</p>
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beehive users have mentioned that since the new opening time of 7.30 (which they love!), the vehicle gates are never open for children to be dropped off. We note what Mrs Owen said in a recent newsletter about not tailgating, but think that this is probably why it is happening. Considering the residents of Rydal Drive are already understandably fed up, it would seem a sensible solution to ensure that the vehicle gates are open in time for students to be dropped off by car at that time of the morning, as the car park is quiet enough. This was never a problem when Beehive opened at 7.50. Several parents have mentioned this at Beehive but the answer has always been "well it should be open". It's definitely not! 	
<p>We are trying to change this but the company are charging us for the privilege. They won't charge, however if they are called out for another issue and can do it whilst they are here- we are compiling a list of other issues with the gates so we can call them out soon.</p>	<p>Admin to action</p>
<p>Club Booking System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club booking system: In July, communication was sent out explaining the new booking system (on school gateway) and warning that some clubs got booked up early. It was announced that the booking system would be open at 9am sharp on 27th July. however, it then opened the day before at some point, meaning that things like KS1 art club were booked up before the system was even supposed to be open (because some parents had spotted it was open early and so told their friends!). We completely support the "first come first served" system, but only if done fairly, which this definitely wasn't. I might get my child onto Art Club when that is opened up again soon but will be a bit less positive if I can't. 	
<p>This was a one off 'blip' as it was the first time of using the system. We now know how to use it properly so this will not happen again. New sessions for February to July will open in January, and a letter will be sent out in advance.</p>	<p>Concluded</p>

Open Classrooms

- Many of the parents would like more opportunity to spend more time in classrooms. Do Open classrooms still happen? If so when. What about hearing reading (in the lower years?) Beech class parents were asked to come in for a morning, but many felt that perhaps there needed to be more flexibility so those who would like to help out but worked some days could still volunteer.

These will happen early in the new year.

Path to Rusthall through woods

- The path through the woods from Rusthall that joins the bottom of Coniston. This path is badly maintained and there have been some parents and students recently who have slipped and fallen. Would the school support a campaign to the council (just a letter, nothing too committed!) to improve the maintenance of this path? There are several Rusthall parents who would walk if this path was in a better state, which would then obviously help the driving/parking situation as well.

Mrs Robinson has led on this in the past- is anyone in contact with her?

- **Thanks to PSA** - A lot of praise for the work of the PSA especially with the Christmas fair, which felt very well organised.
- **Childcare Vouchers – School Comms** - School Gateway app does not let you book if you are using Childcare Vouchers as payment method for Beehive etc. You have to email the school, and arrange to make payment separately and school then book the session for you on Gateway. However voucher payments seem to not get credited accurately against the child's account - I'm currently 6 emails into trying to reconcile 3 after school club sessions and it's still not sorted."

Apologies for this. At present, there is not another way of organising this but we know it is an issue that needs to be resolved.

- **Julian's Collection** - Have donated to Julian's collection - what are the school doing to acknowledge his awesomeness? We will make an announcement and thank him during the an assembly in January (was going to be before but now January)
- **Christmas Costumes** - Could we start to donate Christmas costumes/outfits so the years below do not have to keep buying new ones and these can be passed onto the years below? Perhaps even suggest a hiring option where the school could make some money from it for £2 an outfit? Yes we do take donations and store them in the loft.
- **School Uniform** - Also could school uniform sales be re-introduced so we can pass on decent/lost property uniform? Perhaps at the school summer fair there could be a stall?

When the PSA did run it, it was not well supported and did not raise significant amounts. Storage was also a problem. Therefore, we have no plans to reintroduce this. However, parents could put items on their class Facebook, or the PSA page?

- **Homework book** - Could a homework book be introduced? A small notebook to keep in contact with daily issues/progress for the teachers/parents to keep each other informed on what each other should know? For example: Tommy could do with some help with his 3x table at the moment or we are learning to write a poem with Tommy over the next week.

Teachers do not have time in the day to write in 30 individual books. The class memo is used for passing topic information on to parents.

Reps to action

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 Topics - Loved the WW2 event and the topic has gone down really well. Enjoyed by both the children and the grandparents and visitors. It was lovely for everyone to be able to share stories and what they have been learning. • Great to have the London trip to look forward to. • Guy Bass visit was really enjoyed. Inspired the children. Having people like that visit is such a buzz and the children enjoyed seeing an inspirational man come in. It has sparked their interest in books further. • Club/Event Clashes - Some good feedback around the Athletics Club and those that attended enjoyed the tournament. It was a shame that this clashed with the tea party, which meant that Year 6 had to leave before all the events had finished and the results were announced. Is there any way we can avoid this in future? Do these tournaments get timetabled a long way in advance? No • There has been feedback that it is a shame other year 6 clubs clash with school football meaning if they are in the team they are unable to attend. Football Team training is moving in Term 3 to Tuesdays. • Access to Water bottles - Reported as an issue for Year 3 due to water monitors not having them ready for break and a problem for Year 6 as not allowed to access them (in a box) during lessons. May not be accurate - relayed from kids. • Y3 Getting loose pieces of paper home for homework – can these be put in a book? • Y3 Spellings are given weekly for children to learn, but tests are not always carried out. When they are sat, the results are not known as they haven't had time to mark them. It has been quite a haphazard approach of late that some children find demoralising. • Class Times - A couple of parents have commented that the time the children have come out of school is getting later and well past 3.15pm. Is it possible to get the children out on time? I will remind teachers. • Lunches -There is still some feedback around lunches being not nice and running out of things. Parents can of course send packed lunches but can be challenging if there are two children particularly 1 in KS1 and they are keen for them to have a tasty hot meal at school. There was discussion at the last parent rep meeting that there might be the possibility to arrange individual meets with Nourish for those that have individual concerns - is this possible? I can ask them. • Pine – Lunches - Nourish food lots of children still not liking school dinners • Secondary Transition - Can we make sure we prepare our children for secondary as parents from last year's year 6 felt their children were not pushed as they were in younger years and would like reassurance that a high level will continue all the way through primary school life. School aims to get the children 'Secondary Ready'. The lack of homework in last year's Year 6 was an issue. Class notes will suggest further homework if wanted, particularly Maths. • School trips - I believe that this has been discussed before but are you able to explain why all letters about school trips state that: "you are not obliged to pay however if we don't raise the required amount the trip may not go ahead"? Mrs Owen will look again at the wording of the letter. • Can more notice for trips costs be given to parents for the whole year? • All reps could push for everyone paying or speaking to school about payment via their Facebook pages. • It would be good to understand why parents do not need to pay. If the children are going on an extra curricular trip then parents understand that there is likely to be an associated cost to parents. Other schools insist and chase payment and enforce the message that if you don't pay your child can't go. Can we not do this as a school? In 	<p>Concluded</p> <p>HT to action</p> <p>HT to action</p> <p>HT to action</p> <p>HT to action</p>
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<p>your experience, is it the same parents who are not paying? If so, can the school address the issue with the specific parents so that all children do not miss out?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir and music - Please can you advise the latest on the choir situation without Mrs Wilson as we know that a parent was considering taking it on? Will there be a choir soon? Now that Mrs Wilson is not coming back please can you advise who will be heading up music at Bishops Down as this was a key part of BD life which has suffered in her absence. With lots of studies showing how music both helps children's mental health and aids learning, it would be great to make this a key focus again. Miss Mackie is leading Music. Mrs Akers wanted to start a choir before Christmas but unfortunately, she is off sick at the moment. • Training tops (given as a Year 6 legacy gift) - These were not used at all three of the cross-county events or the athletics tournament. Why are they not being used? They should be signed out (as all the tops are numbered) and collected at the end of the event giving the whole school an opportunity to use them and to look professional at events! If there are concerns about them going missing or getting lost, could we ask a parent to volunteer at the end of each event to wash all the tops and hand them back to school? • Year 6 legacy gift - There are strong feelings that the Year 6 legacy gifts which were given to the school at the end of last year by the then Year 6 classes were not appropriately acknowledged which was upsetting for both the children and the parents who worked so hard to raise much-needed funds for the school. Parents have asked for assurances that this will be addressed this year and for future Year 6 classes and that time will be given in the final leavers' assembly for the gifts to be given to school so that the whole school are aware of what is being gifted to them to use. This will be addressed. • Y5 CAT Tests – These will be charged for from now on, so parents will need to pay for them to be done for their child. If no payment is received, the child will not take the tests, i.e. parents will have to 'opt in with payment'. <p>Reps asked for a list of the subject leaders, which is below.</p> <p>English – Mrs Holliday and Miss Ritchie Maths – Miss Brooks Science – Mrs Parks</p> <p>Reps asked for a list of when each class is swimming this academic year. This is below. Term 3 – Y6 Oak Term 4 – Y5 Redwood Term 5 – Y3 Term 6 – Y4</p> <p>Next Reps Meeting is at 9am on Friday 1st February 2019 in the Meeting Room</p>	<p>Concluded</p> <p>HT to action</p>
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