

Ms Steele & Class Rep Meeting

Date of Meeting: 18th October 2019

1. Role of the Class Reps

The role of the class rep is to provide a bridge between the Headteacher and the rest of the parents, with the aim of working together in partnership to support the children of the school. It is a forum where group issues can be raised, discussed, worked through, and information can be fed back to parents.

The first port of contact for parents who wish to raise a specific issue relating to their child should be with the class teacher.

WhatsApp Groups are a useful tool to get messages out quickly such as reminders for trip permission slips etc. however in the past it has caused some problems.

School can only deal with issues if they are aware of them and they should be discussed and raised in an appropriate manner.

2. Reporting Incidents

Ms Steele reported that there can be as many as 20 'incidents' reported by children in a single lunchtime to a member of staff and these can range from very minor issues to occasionally something more serious. The staff always try to judge these incidents but it can be difficult as children do not always present the complete facts. Children can fall in and out with one another and unfortunately when they tell their parents about something that happened they cannot always be relied upon to provide all the facts. Sometimes children will tell the teacher about something that happened during lunch in the middle of afternoon teaching, when the teacher doesn't have the time to deal with it. The child then tells a parent that the teacher did not listen to them. Teachers will always look into incidents that are reported to them and if there are specific worries or concerns, parents should speak to the class teacher in the first instance.

3. Reading Focus

The school lose approx. 100 books a year, through lost and damaged. The PA have agreed to invest £2,000 in a new reading scheme for KS1 and the school are looking to trial reading records in Y1. The issue in the past with reading records was that parents expected daily updates from the teacher, this is not possible due to the time constraints of the current curriculum. On a positive note a group of Y3 parents are taking on the management of the library.

4. Food

School lunch in relation to portion size was raised again. Portion sizes increase as children move up through the school, and this has been calculated by the external catering company. Obviously, some children will eat more than others, whilst some children do not finish their food for any number of reasons. There is always enough food available and children have access to bread and the salad bar. If a parent has a specific issue please contact the school directly.

After school club snack portions was also raised. The menu runs on a 2 week schedule and there is always a choice of filling for wraps/sandwiches when they are on the menu which is once a fortnight. There is also yogurt and variety of fruit to accompany it.

5. Hewitts

The issue of delay in received orders has been raised with Hewitts and the school is waiting for a response.

6. Volunteers

The school always welcome volunteers, but parents cannot help in their children's class. If you are interested in volunteering please speak to the office. All volunteers will need to be DBS checked.

7. Home Learning

A single request for more home learning was raised from Y5. The majority of families are happy with the amount set, and there are no plans to change this at present.

The issue of the on-line home learning not always available when set. Ms Steele will look into this and discuss with class teachers.

8. Swimming – Y3

Y3 will have 6 weeks of swimming lessons and go class by class in the New Year. The exact dates will be communicated near the time.

9. After School club

Currently the school is unable to offer Ad-hoc sessions as the demand is very high, however in emergencies the school will always do its best to accommodate. The school is unable to offer staggered or short sessions due to space, staffing and ratios. Equally staff still need to be paid even if your child does not attend a booked sessions. The question of swapping a booked session with another child could be an option. This would need to be discussed with the school on a case by case basis.

10. Notice for events and picking children

The school try to give parents as much notice as possible for planned events, however sometimes they are waiting on third parties to respond. Children are picked for a number of reasons, ability, behaviour, interest etc. There is a record of which children are pick for which events, however sometime things slip through the net. There were recent issues with cross country in KS1 which is now being reviewed. The school is run by a small number of staff who strive to give as many opportunities to as many children as possible. Sometimes we take on too much and this is being reviewed currently.

11. Lunchtime clubs reminders

School are going to put up a timetable for KS2 children to remind them, whilst KS1 children will get a verbal reminder.

12. PE lessons

One KS2 year group raised the issue of PE lessons in particular tag-rugby. Some children had found the rules confusing as they were different to outside club rules. Ms Steele explained that the class teacher had attended a course run by the Croydon Sports partnership in order to teach the class, and that if children were to play the game against other Croydon schools these were the rules they would play by.

13. Staffing

There are no planned redundancies, however it is all dependant on future funding. Teachers PPA time is covered by a qualified teacher and not TA's like some other schools. Some classes have less TA support than others, however where possible the remaining TA staff have taken on more sessions to cover this. The school do not use supply staff, any staff sickness is covered internally.

14. Behaviour

The issue of sanctions, such as missing playtime or sitting outside the staff room, for poor behaviour was raised by a KS1 class, and whether something else could be done? It is difficult as such sanctions should be in the children's own time and would be dependent upon a number of factor such as who is on duty, what the issue was etc.

Children are given incentives, such as house points. The school have reconfigured the house points system and introduced categories in which points can be rewarded.

15. Spelling

The issue of could spelling results be available in a more timely fashion was raised by a KS1 class. The results of spelling and other such tests is a timing issue and staff prioritise their time accordingly.

16. Meet the teacher

The question of could there be different times as not everyone can make the end of the day was raised by a KS1 class. In the past the school offered a variety of times both day and evening times for events such as meet the teacher and the school improvement plan only for a handful of parents to attend. Handouts are available for all the parents and parents are welcome to arrange a meeting with the teacher if they have anything they wish to discuss. The school also notified parents in July about the September meetings to give as much notice as possible.

17. Year 3

The mixing up of the classes has gone well and the children have all settled into their new class groups.

18. Activity clubs for reception

Currently there are no clubs open to reception, it is felt that for some the school day is already long and introducing an activity club at the end of the day would be too much at present.