

## **Parent Rep Meetings & Ms Steele**

### **1. Setting Homework**

Homework is due to be set by Friday of each week, but unfortunately this has not always happened and sometimes the work has not appeared on Google Classroom until Sunday evening.

A request to have homework set by a Thursday evening was requested in order to allow parents to print or plan their time for the weekend to complete the tasks.

Ms Steele recognised that there had been an issue in one class where work had been set late. She advised that with all the additional work Covid has made for the school and staff unfortunately setting homework may have moved further down staff's priority list at times. As with all technology, there is an increased risk of it not uploading properly and the teacher not being aware until later.

Ms Steele will speak with staff and see what can be done going forward.

### **2. Storage space for lunch boxes**

The request for additional space for children to store packed lunch boxes was requested as some children have reported things have gone missing or tampered with.

Traditional packed lunch boxes were stored in the main corridor near the school office however due to Covid these are now kept on children's school pegs.

Ms Steele pointed out that some children have swapped snacks/lunches with fellow classmates, which staff have discussed with children. It is hoped that things will be able to go back to normal in September.

School would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that children need only bring a small bag in which to carry their lunch/water bottle/snack/pencil case in.

### **3. Lunch**

It was raised that there used to be more variety on offer such as baguettes every week. Chartwell have a bigger choice in comparison to the previous caterers, however Ms Steele has had to restrict the menu choices due to the length of time staggered lunchtimes takes at the moment.

It is hoped that school life will be able to return to normal in September and that a fuller menu will be on offer after October half term.

It was noted that the Halal menu is difficult to provide for because of the low numbers.

Positive feedback 'kids really enjoyed it' regarding the BBQ the previous week.

The re-introduction of warm thermos food was raised during the discussion. There may be a possibility that children will be able to bring in warm thermos food at some point next term but that will be dependent on what, if any, Covid restriction are in place.

### **4. Unauthorised absents**

There has been an increase in the number of children taking time off during term time that is unrelated to illness. Children are being taken out and school are being told that the child is unwell only to have the child tell their teacher/classmates that they went out for the day or were away visiting relatives. Children then get 'caught out' and feel very embarrassed and uncomfortable that their parents have reported them ill when this was untrue.

The school recognises that in these difficult times some families have not had a break or been able to see relatives and as such appreciate parents being honest and requesting time off through the appropriate channels. The time is unlikely to be authorised but at least no child is made to feel uncomfortable.

Parents are reminded that the Educational Welfare Officer looks at every child's attendance if it is below 95% and, on some occasions, will contact parents to investigate the reasons.

**5. Trial – Verbal Feedback**

The school are looking at trialling verbal feedback from September – copy of the new policy will be sent out in the autumn term. Instead of written marking, teachers will provide verbal feedback to all children in class. Parents will continue to receive feedback via parents evening and reports.

This was discussed by the parent reps who all agreed that not all children understood written feedback and that verbal feedback would allow discussion between the teacher and child in addition to giving staff more time to focus on lessons and lesson planning.

Parent reps did request if there was to be no written marking in books could an email with some targets be sent sometime near Christmas with a few lines detailing areas a child needs to focus. Ms Steele thought this was a good idea and would look to produce something.

**6. Homework feedback**

One parent rep raised the issue of homework feedback, which all parent reps agreed, would be beneficially whether it was verbal or written - a few words or a line or two. A simple 'Well done', 'great effort' or 'I really enjoyed reading your story'. This would ensure children remain engaged in home learning.

**7. Thank you**

All reps wanted to pass on their thanks to all the staff for all their hard work this year and to say that Google Classroom has been an invaluable tool, particularly during the second lockdown at the beginning of the year.