

## **Parent Rep Meeting & Ms Steele – Summer (1) 2022**

### **1. School lunches**

A couple of children have mentioned that the school dinners are not as tasty as they use to be. A child in KS2 stated that the food was cold when it was their turn to eat.

Food is continually topped-up through the lunch break and when not out on display is kept warm in the kitchen. If the problem is in regards to a particular dish then please let Ms Steele know.

Ms Steele also mentioned the changes to the new menu. There have been supply issues with some of the ingredients and Chartwells have changed a couple of the dishes. From June there will be baguettes on Tuesday and Thursday each week and jacket potatoes on the other days of the week.

### **2. Boys Toilets**

Cleanliness of the toilets, particularly the boys was raised. Little accidents always happen, especially when the young ones use the urinals. The toilets are cleaned at the end of each school day, but it does not help that staff have to retrieve inanimate objects that are dropped.

The school would love to upgrade both the boys and girls toilets, however cost of refurbishment has dramatically increased.

### **3. Parental contribution/donation to school funds**

The school have highlighted that in previous years parent's contribution to the school fund was really beneficial, but since Covid contributions have not been as forthcoming. It was recognised that in these challenging times of increased expenses requesting a donation at the beginning of the school year may be difficult for some, but that if parents were able to pledge a smaller donation per child per term it would be more manageable for families and would allow the school to budget more effectively.

### **4. Attendance**

The school's attendance record has been significantly dented of recent years. Pre-covid the yearly attendance record was 99%, this understandably dropped during Covid, however since life has returned to normal sadly good attendance has not. This has been noticed by the local authority and unlike in previous years when the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) would only attend once a term, they are now attending more frequently which does have a financial impact on school as every attendance is charge for.

Unauthorised absences have an impact not only of the child/children who are not in school but also their classmates and teaching staff. Teachers are already running intervention and booster sessions for children due to them falling behind because of Covid. The additional strain of having to provide catch-up support to children of unauthorised absences is frustrating for staff and has a demoralising impact to their well-being as they are trying to do their very best to make a difference to all their children.

Parents need to be aware that a child's attendance record follows them to secondary school and is also disclosed on any reports requested by private or grammar schools.

It has been highlighted by the EWO that where an unauthorised absence occurs, charges will be applied. In addition the school has made the decision that where unauthorised absence(s) has occurred those children will not be considered for extra-curricular enrichment activities if they happen within the school day.

### **5. PE Kits**

The school will continue with children attending school in PE kit on PE days. This has had a really positive impact, increasing the time spent participating in PE lessons rather than missing part of the lesson getting changed. It has also meant less items of clothing have gone missing.