

Parent Rep Meeting & Ms Steele – Autumn (1) 2022

1. Missing/Lost clothing

All clothing that is left around school is checked by staff and anything clearly labelled is returned to children during assembly. The school requests that parents check to ensure their child has not mistakenly brought home someone else's clothing and that all clothing (and shoes) are clearly labelled.

Any items that are not labelled will be donated to the PA at the end of term to re-sell.

2. Cool Milk

Unfortunately some children have not received their milk despite parents paying for it. Ms Steele explained that recently delivery of cool milk has been late which has resulted in children not receiving their milk during fruit and snack time.

Ms Steele stated that the school will assist where they can e.g. chasing late delivery, however if your child does not receive their milk for which parents have paid for parents should contact the company directly and raise the issue.

3. Teachers response to emails

The question of when and how often does the class teacher check their emails as some parents have not always had a response.

Ms Steele has asked all staff if they can try and check their emails before school, as it is especially useful if teachers need to be made aware of any issue(s) which may have a potential impact on a child for the coming day e.g. the family pet died. However she is conscious of staff well-being therefore she does not expect staff to check and/or respond to emails over the weekend or evenings.

If something is particularly urgent and a parent has not had a response they are advised to call or email the office. Where there is a job share teachers there may be a slight delay in replying especially if they need to check/discuss with their counterpart before responding.

4. Dates for the diary

A request to have dates for the diary for the whole year be included in the weekly newsletter with new dates added in red.

It is not possible to have a whole year of dates included on the weekly newsletter as dates for some future events are unknown or arise short notice. However where confirmed event dates are known for the coming half term they will be included on the newsletter and school will endeavour to give as much notice as possible of short notice events.

5. Scooter Park

Currently there are no plans to reintroduce the scooter park at present. The original area where the scooter park was is now an outside hand washing station. Once the building work has been completed school will see what space is available and reassess.

6. Selecting children for events

There was a request for more transparency on how children are selected for events. Some parents have struggled to explain to their child/ren why they have not been selected.

Ms Steele explained that there is different criteria for different events, i.e. for the recent Cross County event the criteria set by the organisers were the fastest 6 children in each class.

Some children will be selected to participate in competitive sporting activities e.g. football or netball team whilst others will be selected due to the event criteria e.g. Boccia.

The school try to give all children an opportunity to participate, for some they may be selected in order to introduce them to a new sport particularly if they that child is not necessarily sporty. Another child may be selected as a reward for good behaviour, likewise they may be de-selected for poor behaviour.

7. Lunches

A request to have less bread based lunch options or wholemeal options available.

Firstly the school are in the process of re-tendering the school caterers, which should be in place in the New Year. The priority for the school to ensure children have enough to eat at lunchtime so that they are full, happy and focused in the afternoon. There is always salad and fruit available, even if a child chooses a baguette. In addition, the more children who have a school meal means the school is able to breakeven on costs.

There has been an increase in the number of children having a school lunch since the introduction of baguettes and the rotation of pasta and jacket potato. Ms Steele believes this in part is due to these foods being recognisable, particularly for the younger children.

The school did trial whole-wheat pasta and wholemeal bread, but the children complained and the school found they were throwing a lot of food away.

Ms Steele requested that parents sit with their child and go through the available options and try to encourage children to try new things and make healthy choices.

Feedback from parent reps was that they love the fact that children could choose on the day, unlike other schools where parents had to decide and pay a week or even a term in advance if there child would have school lunches.

Ms Steele hopes to hold 'lunch with your child' for Reception and Year 1 parents in the New Year once the new caterers are in.

8. House Point tally on Newsletter

A request to have the house point tally included on the newsletter so that they could be celebrated. Ms Steele really like this idea and will be introducing a half termly house point tally to the newsletter.

9. Clarity on weekly spellings

A couple of questions regarding spelling groups and how spelling are tested was raised.

Parent should speak to their class teacher directly for clarity on what spelling group their child is in or how the teacher tests spellings as each class is different.

10. Clarification of rules

It has been raised by some children that they have been told off for talking whilst walking in the corridor when on their way to the classroom or lunch. Have the rule changed?

Yes, since the relaxation of the one-way system there was an increase in the number of incidents in the corridor – children jumping about, talking loudly etc. Which could be intimidating and/or distracting for some of the younger children and staff when they are teaching.

It was decided to introduce corridor rules to ensure sensible, calm and respectful behaviour. Children are to walk quietly in single file down the left-hand side, when in the corridor and be respectful e.g. hold open doors for others etc.

Since the introduction of the rules some children have commented that they feel safer, and it was commented by some recent prospective parents on how well behaved the child were when moving around the school.

11. Playground activities

There are a number of activities for the children to partake in during lunch and break which are on a two weekly rota. The library and ICT suite are open for children to use, there is Lego activity available in the wooden undercover area near the train. There are the outdoor spaces between the field and playground which has had new flooring lay down over the summer as well as the wooden pagodas.

The suggestion for an outdoor Art and Craft area for children was raised, however Ms Steele said this is not feasible in the winter months as things get blown away also it would need to be supervised which is not currently possible due to staffing. Children are welcome to bring in their own colouring book and crayons should they wish.

The school are looking to introduce Year 6 play buddies to the playground after half-term.