

Parent Rep Meeting & Ms Steele – Autumn (2) 2022

1. Could staff do more to encourage play/interaction between girls and boys in the younger years?

We do try to encourage mixed play with the main emphasis being to encourage children to play with their peers rather than gravitating towards older siblings. Throughout the day children work in mixed groups in class so playtimes are a chance for children to relax, have fun, play and socialise with their friends.

2. Big thank you to Reception term

Thank you to Mrs Aitken and Mrs Noonan for settling the children so well. They all seem to have taken to the rhythm of school life like ducks to water - hats off to the whole Reception team.

3. When will term dates for 2023/24 be made available?

Term dates for next year have been released and were shared on last week's newsletter, they are also available on the school website [Term Dates – Gresham Primary School](#)
The school have attempted to align the October half-term dates more closely with Riddlesdown.

4. Has a new catering company been appointed and is there a menu available?

Details of the new catering company Aspen and their menu were shared in last week's newsletter. We are looking forward to working with them, they appear to be more flexible when it comes to allergies and dietary requirements.

Unfortunately, in the current economic climate it will mean that catering will be running at a loss, therefore the school need and will be encouraging more children, particularly those in the younger years who are entitled to free school lunches, to take up the offer.

5. Really nice to have the children's books home. Could this be a regular half termly thing?

Yes, pre-covid books were sent home every half-term. The school aims to send books home a week before each half term starting the 3rd February.

6. Will the Little Wandle assessment sheets be sent home half termly after they are completed like they were shared at Parents Evening?

They have already been sent home.

7. Spelling

Ms Steele explained that it would be very time consuming for staff to inform parents of how many spelling their child gets each week, therefore she suggested the spelling /SPaG books be sent home every half term with the children's books.

8. Christmas celebration feedback

- It was great event but it's too crowded! Would outside be an option?
- I know it's not a big hall but I think we would enjoy it if there was a bit of space to walk about.
- I know it was cramming because of the pop choir mainly - maybe if the children do singing outside then the rest can be continue indoor

Parent reps who are also part of the PA thank parents for their feedback (it's always helpful to know what went well and where thing can be done differently) all of which was discussed at the regular monthly PA meeting held two days before the parent rep meeting.

Just a reminder that the PA hold regular monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month and all parents are welcome. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to find out more about what we do, have a fund-raising idea or how you can help please email: greshamschoolpa@gmail.com

9. Big thank you to Mr Grace

Thank for this term, kids have loved having him back as their teacher. And special thanks for doing the Christmas Spectacular.

10. Hand-washing

A request to ask the school if they could send a reminder about proper hand washing etc and not sending your child to school if they are ill.

Children are always reminded of hand hygiene and to wash their hands. In regards to the current Scarlet fever/Strep A sickness that is going about, the school will continue to update the school community as and when required.

11. Cool Milk

A parent raised that they pay for their child to have milk but on occasion is told they didn't have it as it has run out. I assume this means kids who don't pay sometimes have it causing there not to be enough?

Deliveries have improved so no-one who is paying for cool milk should be going without. The only time children who do not order cool milk will be offered it is if there was a leftover surplus.

Please could the parent who raised the issue provide more information directly to Ms Steele.

12. Lost Property

There is a lot of lost property around the school. Anything that is labelled is returned to the child however the school have noticed a large number of items have no name on them. Ms Steele proposes the school will have a box inside school near where the lunchboxes are stored and all un-returned lost property will be placed in the box, she requests that parents encourage children to look in the box for lost items. Then at the end of each week the box will be put outside near the entrance/exit for parents to check then at the end of every half term whatever is not claimed will be donated to the PA.

There is still a vast amount of uniform un-named. Please can parents name all items of clothing, water bottles and lunch boxes as it make's school life so much easier.