

Parent Rep Meeting & Ms Steele – Spring (1) 2024

1. Wrap Around Care

Parents requested an update as to the available places following our last meeting and wanted to reiterate their concerns with regards to provisions for the next school year.

Unfortunately there is not much that can be added since last meeting. The school have been unable to hire additional staff but will continue to advertise. However, they have managed to increase the number of space at Breakfast club (BC) recently by increasing the child to adult ratio.

In addition, a current after school club leader has increase their hours so After School Club (ASC) were able to increase capacity on a Thursday, just before the Christmas break. At that time the school office did go through the waiting list and contact waiting families to offer a place and to check what sessions were still required.

As previously discussed Ms Steele has considered outsource this and the subject was recently discussed with other head teachers within the cluster who do this. One of the issues is that staff employed by these companies are themselves young and do not necessarily know the children. By keeping the service in-house, the school can ensure the environment is nice and manageable for both staff and children.

2. Activity Clubs

It was again raised about the lack of activity clubs for younger years and that this term there were only two clubs open for Key Stage 1 and that both were held on the same day.

Staff are not obliged to run clubs and it is dependent on the availability of staff who give up their free time to run them. Likewise, the school does not have much say with external provider, they tell the school which day they have available depending on their commitments.

3. Activity club dates.

A request was made for the school to issue a termly document detailing the dates each club was running.

When children sign up for a club all the information is provided at the time (start/end date and start/finish time). The school do not always have that information for externally run clubs as parents' book with the providers directly.

The school office produce a termly document which is available on the website under parent information.

4. Uniform miscommunication

A request from a parent to please direct communication directly to them rather than via the child. This was a single event where a teacher spoke to a young child regarding uniform, resulting in some confusion and the child thinking they were in the wrong.

Ms Steele was aware of this and has reminded staff to be mindful when communicating, particularly with younger children.

5. Homework - Marking

The question of whether parents should be marking their child's homework (comprehension) was raised, plus that there hadn't been any feedback on a short story children were asked to write.

When work is set children are provided with the comprehension answers so that they can mark it once completed. Similar to what they do in class. It helps the child understand where they may have gone wrong or how they can improve. Parents are of course welcome to assist their child with mark should they wish.

Unfortunately, Google classroom does not inform the teacher when a child has handed in work. The teacher must go into each child's profile to check, obviously sometimes someone might get missed. This is especially difficult as the homework is not always handed in on time. Ms Steele will speak with staff in this particular class and teachers will send an email to parent to clarify homework expectation.

Home Learning Feedback

We are aware that some parents would like more detailed feedback on home learning tasks set.

As you may be aware, teacher workload is at a crisis point across the country and school leaders have a responsibility to reduce and/or remove tasks which have a limited impact on pupil progress. In order to use teacher time most effectively (where teachers' time has the greatest impact) we do not expect teachers to respond in any detail to the home learning submitted. Written feedback on home learning is incredibly time consuming and has a very limited impact on children's progress. We have arrangements (outlined below) which enable children's home learning to be meaningful, impact progress and be assessed in a manageable way for staff.

- Teachers review work submitted and adapt lessons and feedback in class accordingly.
- Whole class feedback is often given.
- Teachers share examples in class.
- Tasks such as times tables and spellings are assessed in school.
- Teachers praise and give rewards such as house points to motivate children.
- Some tasks are automatically marked such as MyMaths.
- Teachers will give occasional comments with the aim of motivating children, e.g. 'Great effort this week. Well done.'
- Some children will be asked to mark their own task as this provides them with instant feedback where they can learn in the moment.
- Some tasks are preparation for the week ahead.

We are grateful that parents are eager to know how their children are progressing and that they are keen to support them in their learning. We intend to send out targets at the beginning of the spring term to assist with this.

6. Homework – complete unfinished class work in own time

The issue of work not being completed in class and either sent home or children kept in a break to complete work was raised. Some parents feel this is unfair on those children who are not disruptive and that fresh air and movement breaks are massively beneficial to the children's energy so they are more productive in the classroom.

Ms Steele agrees with the message the class teacher has posted on Google classroom advising parents, going forward, that if children do not complete class work during lesson they will be asked to stay in a break time or the work will be sent home to complete in their own time. The message clearly states that if the children have worked hard and completed their work then they won't be kept in or have work sent home. The class have regular movement breaks.

7. Lunch – Salad and baguettes

Children are made to eat at least one piece of fruit or vegetable at lunchtime. Apparently if they have a baguette the option is salad leaves so if they've run out of fruit then they're made to eat the leaves.

There is fresh fruit and vegetables available every day, with a choice of six different types of vegetables on offer which is continually being replenished. Children are also given the option to have the cooked vegetables that are served with the main meals. Ms Steele wishes to make clear that children are free to choose with a great number of them chose the salad leaves.

Some children have complained they don't like the cheese in the baguettes.

The suppliers have not changed and there have been no complaints from staff, who are also given the same options of lunch as the children. There are so many variety of cheeses available and perhaps the one supplied by the caterers is not what children received at home.

8. Lunch – running out

Food choice runs out, children not getting what they pre order in the morning.

Ms Steele was already aware of the situation that happened earlier in the week where a handful of year 6 children did not receive the roast dinner they had ordered. Unfortunately a tray of food was dropped mid service and there was insufficient time to cook more. All children affected were offered alternative options.

Ms Steele has spoken with Year 6 and has offered to swap the order classes go into lunch, however this would mean that seconds/extras would not then be offered to them. The general consensus of the class was they did not want to change as they like the fact they got to have extra or seconds when it was available.