

Parent Forum Minutes 14th February 2020

Attendance: Mrs Price (KP), Mrs Wilde (NW), parent reps: KS (Foundation), RR (Yr1), PD (Yr2), CM (Yr4), MH (Yr5),
Apologies: CD (Yr3), CA (Yr6)

Minutes from the last meeting were carried.

1. **Communication and Notice of Events.**

It was noted that some communication from school felt delayed or short notice was given for parents to action some requests. Notably:

NW: notification of Year 2 swimming details was later than usual due to a change of School Administrator but 1 week's notice was still given. Future notifications will be given with more notice as they have done in the past.

Some parents have requested more time to source the under garments for the Infants Nativity Play with clear dates of when it is needed by.

NW: confirmed that they will give plenty of notice in the future, allowing parents more time to gather these garments.

There was short notice informing parents of being able to bring along Siblings for the school photo shoot resulting in some families missing out on this opportunity.

NW: this opportunity only happens in the Autumn term and school will try and make this clear to new intake parents and timelier in the future.

KP: It is useful for parents to communicate with school also. An example given was the recent power cuts in neighboring villages. There was lots of communication between parents regarding whether school had power or not during that evening. If one parent had nominated themselves to contact school via email with this query, it may have been possible for school to respond to reassure parents of the school situation (by checking the schools power supply). Note that school cannot guarantee a response but will always try to do so if they can.

NW: Our New School Administrator, Mrs Allder is settling in well and enjoying her role. School acknowledge that some communication may have been slightly delayed due to a change of school administrator and whilst Mrs Allder is still in transition with the role and there may be the occasional delay, it is felt that everything is running very well.

Mrs Allder has also been supervising lunch which is really helping her get to know all of the children.

2. Speed of response for emails.

It was felt that at times there was a delay in receiving a reply from parent's emails sent to school.

NW: The school emails are checked daily and then prioritised and this continued to happen during the transition of administrator. It may be at times that an answer may not be available right away and as soon as one is, then a reply will be sent.

If your message is deemed urgent, you will always receive a response from school.

3. Man-hole cover on the Infant Site.

Some parents concerned that the manhole cover by the large bins as you walk into and out of school is very slippery.

KP: The man-hole cover is new as school noticed that it needed replacing. Mrs Price and the Health and Safety Governor carry out a Risk Assessment on both sites every term. The new man-hole was checked before term started and deemed to be safe. There have been no reported accidents on the cover therefore it is felt that no action is required, it will continue to be risk assessed by school.

4. Night Owls finish time.

Could Night Owls on the infants site finish at 6pm instead of 5.30pm.

KP: At present Night Owls finishes at 5.30pm on the Infant Site, and 5.45pm on the Juniors Site.

The times are staggered to mirror the school finish times to accommodate the dual sites.

However, school could look into both sites finishing at 5.45pm. School will look into if the

Infant Site can be staffed until 5.45pm and if it is possible then school will put it up for consideration.

Mrs Price confirmed that neither site will finish at 6pm. This is due to late pick ups and a too late a finish for staff members.

5. The Golden Pharaoh - Saatchi Gallery in London. Who, what, where, when..?

Some parents have been requesting more information on the upcoming trip for Years 4 and 5.

KP: The date of the trip is on the school calendar as Tuesday 24th March. More detailed information will be communicated to parents nearer to the time.

Mr Mackriell is visiting the gallery next week to look at the venue, location and confirm what activities are on offer from the gallery etc. The gallery recommends around 1 1/2 to 2 hours for a visit and then time to eat.

Staffing has not yet been confirmed. It is not a requirement that there should be a Senior Teacher on a school trip as all teachers are able to lead a trip - however on this occasion Mrs Wilde will be attending.

School confirmed that they always assess each individual trip and take advice if needed regarding safety. If it wasn't deemed safe, then they would not go.

6. Teachers absence and return to work.

KP: No reasons will be given for a teacher's absence. This is to protect Staff confidentiality and children and parents alike do not have the right to know this information. However, a teacher may wish to share the reason with their class.

School will always communicate in a timely fashion when a teacher will or will not be returning to school, and often they will communicate this as soon as they know themselves. No actual date of return will ever be communicated in advance as sometimes these dates change.

School can confirm that the children are not told any information regarding a teacher's absence, and they would like to reiterate that if any information was given to children, that same information would always be given to the parents also. It has become apparent that some children have communicated their own version of details re teachers returns to school or reasons for absence to each other and parents, but this information has not come from school. If any parents become concerned about what their children say on this point, Mrs Price encourages them to communicate this to her so that she can quash any false information. School are often unaware of what children will be saying outside of school.

7. Reading in School. Who? When? How Often?

NW: All children from Little Owls through to Year 6 have Guided Reading once a week. On top of this individual children are being heard to read. The aim for Infants is at least once a week, and Juniors would be every couple of weeks. (Note that a real focus from Year 2 upwards is hearing the children read and checking for fluency and accuracy is assessed and also their comprehension and understanding of what they have read). Teachers will always hear children read as much as they can manage.

School are always looking for Adult Helpers to come into school and support with listening to children read. Parent Forum Reps to reach out to their year groups throughout the year to see if anyone can volunteer.

Note - all adults that who come into school to help have to be DBS checked. School are always happy to do this, however there is a cost involved, so adult helpers are only asked to volunteer if they can commit to helping for a period of time on a regular basis. Please email the School Office if you would like to volunteer to help.

In September Mrs Harvey (Little Owls) ran a *Phonics Workshop and the notes are on the School Website for reference. Any future phonics workshops will be communicated to the year group.

Also, Mrs Wilde ran a *Reading Workshop in October covering all year groups and information from the session can be found on the School Website.

* school website / parents info / learning resources for home / presentations to parents

Mrs Wilde confirmed the importance of reading to children on a regular basis and whilst school read with them as much as it possible, children reading at home every day will really help.

8. Heading of Footballs.

There have been concerns raised from some parents that children should not be heading footballs due to the possibility of brainy injuries occurring. This has come from some resent new reports and new research.

There will be no heading of footballs taught in school- following new FA Guidelines published during half term week.

9. School policy on injuries at school.

NW: All staff are first aid trained and this is updated every 3 years.

Both Miss Roberts on the Infant site and Miss Humphries on the Juniors are Pediatric trained (this is important to have for children 4 and under).

All accidents / injuries that require some kind of attention (i.e. plaster / cold press) or leave a mark that could need explaining (i.e. red mark or bruise) are logged in an accident book and an accident slip is filled out and given to the child to take home.

If staff are unsure of a course of action, they ask each other for advice and call Miss Roberts if needed.

There is no list of actions for staff to take in the event of an injury / accident, they have to make decisions based on common sense and what they see.

If a parent has a concern regarding an injury their child gets whilst at school, and there is no slip taken home then they can always get in touch with school and check what has been logged in the Accident Book.

Regarding serious injuries, in an emergency situation school will always call 999. In a non-emergency, school will attempt to get in touch with a parent. If they do not manage to contact a parent, they will then either get an ambulance or two members of staff will take a child to hospital if urgent attention is required (i.e. stitches).

School were praised in the reps meeting by how they have managed serious incidents in the past.

10. Hot Meal sampling request.

There is some concern that some children were eating less food during school meals than they used to and that maybe the food quality had declined.

NW: staff do regularly try / eat the food and they believe that the standard of food provided has not changed.

School are always interested to hear from other school meal providers to ensure that they are offering the best available choice to parents and children, but at the moment no other provider can meet the needs of the school and they are happy with the current provider.

11. Little Owl clubs and Friday dance club.

NW: Little Owls are not invited to join After School Clubs until after the Easter break and this has always been the case. Schools reasons for LO waiting for the summer term is that school find children are often tired at the end of the school day and with lots of colds and bad

weather it is better to wait for the summer term. This is the rule that school have put in place and it will remain going forward.

It was discussed how many clubs are on offer at school, and how Cuddington and Dinton do seem to offer more than many neighboring schools and they are proud of this.

On the date of the meeting on offer at the Infants were:

2 x sports clubs

Art club at lunch

French at lunch (with a cost)

Dance at lunch (with a cost)

Snick Snacks at lunch

Tennis (with a cost)

and it was felt that this was a good offer.

NW: Miss Sharon's Dance class is run based on her rules which she puts in place. So Little Owls not being invited to take part in Dance is Miss Sharon's decision on how she runs her classes. Regarding communication, if your child has a place booked with Miss Sharon, then you will have her contact details for an invoice and you should contact her directly with any queries.

12. Chearsley / Nether Winchendon bus size and safety turning in villages.

Some parents queried whether such a large bus was needed to serve the children from these villages, as its size can sometimes pose safety problems when turning around or struggle turning due to parked vehicles.

NW: County Council provide the children's bus passes to those eligible. The bus company then provides a bus that can accommodate all children with a bus pass (whether they actually use the bus or not). The size of the bus is the decision of the bus company.

13. After School Sports Clubs.

There has been frustration of Sports Clubs being cancelled due to weather and /or dark nights during winter months. One example was Cross Country where short notice was given that it was too dark to continue.

NW: Next Autumn we will communicate at the beginning of term how long the sports sessions will last until (Mid November) in order to avoid short notice given.

KP: If an After-School Club is cancelled at short notice then those children will automatically go into Night Owls.

School confirmed that there are 3 x sports clubs at present on the Junior site and that there is no charge for these clubs that school run. It is important for all to remember that these are supplementary sessions and there is no entitlement for students. School are proud of the offer of After School Clubs that they provide on both sites.

14. Infant Playground Redevelopment.

KP: School have risk assessed the play frame on the left of the field as unsafe to use. This is due to uneven paving.

School are planning to have this area redeveloped.

When the weather is bad then the decision is made to keep children off the field during playtimes. This is because the inside of school is carpeted, and other footwear would be needed indoors, and this isn't deemed practical. It is felt there is still a good offer of play areas during these wet and muddy times.

15. Weight and Body image Key Stage 1.

Some parents questioned whether more should be done to reinforce healthy weight and body image on the infant site.

KP: School follow a scheme of work that is carried out in KS1 that starts in Foundation class through to Year 2 and this is aligned to the National Curriculum and there are no plans to change this.

16. Daily Mile.

Should the children on both sites be running a 'Daily Mile'?

NW: School Staff have fed back that they are not keen on this idea as a compulsory daily activity as classes have 2 x PE sessions a week, the time it takes to change into PE kit, and for the older children the battle of afternoon body odour.

Also, a concern is that not all children will wish to partake in this if made to feel compulsory, but noting that equally some children would love it.

Therefore, at some point in the future, school will look into marking out a 1 mile route and put up Marker Signs (on each site). Then those children that wish to run the mile can change their school shoes into trainers and do this independently.

It was noted that School feel proud and do a good job of keeping the children active. In the near future Mrs Brogan and the Sports Leaders (a number of year 4 and 5 children) will carry out extra sports activities on both sites.

School currently holds the 'Gold Sports Mark' for primary schools and this year is aiming to achieve Platinum status - and they would be the only school in the area to hold this.

17. Mystery Reader - Key Stage 1

Could come parents / adults come into the classrooms as a visitor to read a story to the children?

NW: School like this idea but confirm that as agreed by the School Governors, all adults coming into school classrooms have to be DBS checked.

(Any adult visitor - an author for example who would be in the classroom with the teacher is risk assessed).

A guest reader would need to commit to a regular slot in order to make it cost effective to the school who would pay for the DBS check.

Date of next meeting: Friday 27th March 2020 on Junior Site 9.10am

Parent Reps to attend Star of the Week Assembly prior to next meeting.