

## **GREAT MISSENDEN C of E COMBINED SCHOOL**

### **CLASS REP MEETING – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Present:** Kate Hartley (6S) (Minutes), Debbie Sim (6S), Justine McMullan (6D), Caroline Arnold (4C), Sara Rose (3B), Helen Hadden (3C), Felicity Hardie (Y1), Greg Nicholls (PTA), and Mrs Thomson (Chair).

**Apologies:** Ceri Parekh (6W); Caroline Piercy (6W); Jacqui Napier-Munn (6D); Hayley Farrelly (5K); Carina Gibson (4B); Claire Walsh (4B); Louise Krusche (3C), Kate Adams (3B); Helen Lee (Y2); Juliet Davies (Y2); Jessica Marsh (Y1). My apologies if anyone's 'apologies' have been missed.

#### **1. Good News**

All attendees contributed a piece of good news including:

- the great success of the school disco,
- how wonderful the school choir's performance at Crossroads (respite care) had been
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital's session with Y6 was a big hit
- Caterlink are going to treat GMS as a special case in terms of meeting the school's requirements, and their contract is to be extended.

#### **2. Thanks for Menus.**

Mrs Thomson thanked parents for all their menu suggestions.

#### **3. Feedback from children and parents on new lunch systems**

Very positive feedback across the years commenting on a whole range of improvements:

- General feeling was that there had been a big improvement.
- Name badges liked, and much improved interaction with the catering staff.
- Ordering system working well for the children .... and the parents.
- Wristbands are a success with the children and are working well.
- Ordering system was providing useful information to improve future menus by highlighting meals that were/were not popular choices etc.
- 3 week option had boosted take up rate to 61%
- The whole lunch process was quicker.
- Proper crockery is eagerly anticipated.
- There had been a comment about portions getting smaller? No they should be the same.
- Request for a 'proper pudding' option to be available on all days.
- Some comments re 'pizza and potato wedge', and 'pasta and garlic bread' meals.
- Next term it should be possible to order meals on-line via the VLE (see below).

Some parents had been a little irritated by the packed lunch guidelines, and it was stressed that the message was 'to promote healthy eating to everyone' regardless of whether it was a school or a packed lunch.

There will no longer be a requirement for parents to give a terms notice of stopping school meals. Parents may pay for a half term at a time, in two instalments if they wish to spread the cost.

**Action: Parents to be informed via the next newsletter.**

#### **4. Parent Council**

GMS are to host a Parent Council Forum on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010, 0930 – 1230 in the main hall. (see Kirsten Giles e-mail attached). Mrs Thomson would like as many Class Reps as possible to attend.

Mrs Thomson raised the question of who should chair and clerk Class Rep meetings. It was felt that it was absolutely right that Mrs Thomson should chair, and that a Class Rep should do the minutes.

#### **5. VLE (Virtual Learning Environment)**

Y6 had raised security and accessibility (for those without home on-line access) as issues.

Mrs Thomson has said that the school will be providing a lunchtime session to make sure that everyone has access.

Mr Williams gave a demo. Home learning will be listed on the VLE and some home learning may be submitted via the VLE; maths quizzes are already available. The VLE has currently been rolled out to 6W and 5W, and will be rolled out across the school in January. To access the VLE you need to have username and password.

The e-mail system has filters to prevent inappropriate content. The children are taught safe use of the internet and there is an on-line course for them to do.

#### **6. Communication regarding staff absences due to illness in Y4**

Mrs Thomson apologised and said that the point was taken, and every effort would be made to keep parents up to date if the event of long term absence.

#### **7. Home Learning**

Next ½ term home learning will concentrate on **speaking and listening**, and the summer 1<sup>st</sup> ½ term will concentrate on **writing**. However unlike the reading ½ term numeracy home learning will continue throughout.

## **8. Phone System**

Parents have had problems getting through. A second line is being installed today and a note has gone out on the newsletter explaining this and how to short-circuit the options menu.

## **9. AOB**

- Bullying on the bus – what should parents do? Phone or email Mrs Thomson who will deal with the issue. Bullying has moved from the bus to the pavement. Same solution – contact Mrs Thomson.
- Please could the Governors' photos appear on the school website?  
**Action: Mrs Thomson.**
- Please could all staff also appear on the website?  
**Action: Mrs Thomson**
- Could there be a link from a teacher's website photo to their e-mail. No, any e-mails for teachers should be sent via [office@grtmissenden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@grtmissenden.bucks.sch.uk) who will forward to the teacher. In the near future there will be a teacher/parent forum page on the VLE.
- Y3 maths homework. Parents have requested explanations to help.
- 3C. Concern about whether the children's reading was being listened to by parents in school.  
➤ **Action: Mrs Thomson will investigate, but parents should speak directly with their teacher.**
- Hair bands. Some parents had found it difficult to find appropriate navy blue / dark coloured ones. Suitable ones are available in Tesco's, Sainsbury's and Prestwood.
- School uniform. Some concern expressed over how the children looked. Majority thought children looked very smart.  
**Action: Mrs Thomson will remind pupils in assembly and parents in the newsletter of uniform rules.**
- Request that during the reading ½ term all children continue to receive numeracy home learning.  
➤ **Action: Mrs Thomson to take back to staff meeting.**
- A plea that the school council photos near the hall be replaced with some nice ones!  
**Action: Mrs Thomson to pass request to Miss Close**