

MINUTES

CLASS REP. MEETING Thursday 24th March, 2011

Present:

Nicky Larard Nursery
Carla Robertson 1S
Fiona Charlesworth 2B
Sally Adams 3B
Helen Lee 3C
Sara Rose 4W
Kate Adams 4W
Jade Mar 4B
Lorna Kynaston 4B
Sue Rose 5T
Helena Veldkamp 6D
Libby Piper 6D
Greg Nicholls - PTA Chair
Rozalyn Thomson
Claire Addis

Welcome from Mrs Thomson

Introduction- of 4B reps Lorna Kynaston & Jade Mar. All class reps introduced.

1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs Bettis 2B, Mrs Arnold 5K, Mrs Bhatti Reception, Mr Halling 5W, Mrs Hylton 5W, Mrs Jarvis 3B, Mrs Will 1S.

2. RT explained that visitors from The Misbourne were unable to make it this time.

3. RT referenced minutes of previous Class Reps Meeting regarding home learning in school holidays. Only year 6 may occasionally be given projects in the school holidays.

4. Parents approved new PE kit, which will be available from next term.

New PE kit to be fully implemented by end of school year 2011/12, but optional for the outgoing year 6.

5. Brief discussion in favour of keeping small stock of fleeces for those who need extra layer inside on cold days or as coat substitute.

RT requested reps get feedback from respective classes if anyone feels strongly either way about fleeces.

6. Food For Life Gold Assessment will happen at school on May 5th.

In preparation, INSET day of April 26 will be preparing the polytunnel, the allotment and other growing areas around school (eg Japanese Zen Garden).

Holiday/Royal Wedding bridging days, April 27 & 28, will be given to Growing Outdoor activities instead of the normal curriculum.

7. (Mid-Year) Progress Reports.

Note that these should be dated for clearer reference and RT & CA to do so from now on.

Overall view was these are useful for both parents and children, especially Effort Grades, which allow both to see how children are performing aside of the academic.

Minor complaint on written style; repetition of phrases from previous reports.

RT noted she was conscious of teaching jargon but no objection raised to this.

Current format of two sides including children's comments approved.

8. PTA Cash - what to do with it

GN reported others feedback vetoing Minibus idea as too small to fit entire class and too large a responsibility for school and PTA.

More positively received notion of outdoor activity area; permanent stand-alone shelter area size of netball pitch with low perimeter wall. Could be used for sports, teaching area, football, PTA functions, farmers market, artists, etc.

Possible setback; need to obtain planning permission.

GN requested feedback from parents for any other ideas of substantial nature.

Currently £15k in PTA fund.

RT Applying to current BP scheme for sports facilities sponsorship.

RT proposal of turning circle at end of school field for drop-off to alleviate traffic build up on Church Street but more crucially, Buryfield Car Park and Link Road Parking. GN rejected idea as not beneficial to children in a fun sense although appreciated the current problems of choked traffic and parking.

RT raised that issue of parking, or lack of, will be raised with board of Governors if next years intake of children is as high as this years.

Discussion about school buses costing money therefore parents driving & creating more congestion, danger of buses reversing in car park, possible staggered finish times to ease congestion.

Finally RT stated that all these concerns must be raised by parents to Bucks C Council for any change to occur. This would strongly back up the messages sent by school to County.

9. Mr Brown, the school caretaker, is responsible for opening the upper playground gates at 3.15pm. Often he may be unavailable, for example, he is a local retained firefighter. In these incidences, a parent may open the gates.

10. Extra test for Year 6 11+. RT stated that parents who feel strongly against their child taking part, must write to her.

SATS tests - pupils cannot be withdrawn by parents from these compulsory test papers, but for some children special arrangements are made, eg support with reading the paper or being able to sit in a separate quiet room for the test.

Extra science papers 2011 - This is a moderating test, to check the accuracy of Teacher Assessments in Science nationally. GM school were chosen this year. Unfortunate coincidence school chosen for both extra 11+ and extra Science SATs in the same academic year.

Parent: are these for teachers or children?

RT: For both, so children can show off their knowledge, and so teachers can be proud of the progress made. Also RT can monitor staff effectiveness & children's performance.

RT stressed that the SATs are a vital element in celebrating children's achievements, and school do all they can to minimise the pupils' stress of taking SATs.

11. Yes, Newsletters issued by the school office (from Sue North) are numbered.

The once half-termly newsletters from Truly Scrumptious are not.

12. Wooden Ship (slip hazard?)

Raised when snow here. Yes, it is slippery in the ice. Worst bit, logged ramp removed and replaced by bench. School requested to ensure paths within school grounds all gritted and cleared in snow & ice but not always possible. School cannot do anything outside of the school gates in terms of snow & slip safety.

RT noted that health and safety audit scored 89% last week. Previous audit 4 years ago had raised 11 points. All ticked off last week and replaced with 10 new things!

RT (& GN) noted the volume of work created in ongoing Risk Assessments for each job, each piece of manual equipment etc.

13. KS1 Toilet Locks Broken - Mr Brown alerted and will take care of this. New air fresheners installed too.

14. A.O.B.

CA: reminder that next school Farmers' Market to take place Thursday 7th April.

Will be run by Year 3 on Easter Theme. Please can Yr 3 parents donate baked goods, flowers in pots, etc.

CA & some Yr 3 parents privy to Chocolate Making Workshop this morning and will be producing florentines & truffles for the day. Three more volunteers from year 3 parents needed for this session on Tuesday 5th April 1pm.

Please let Mrs Greaves & Mrs Addis know.

Yr 2 loos dirty and no paper, but no-one sure, but pls. keep eye on.

Home Learning

-Yr 3 & Yr 5 Parents requested home learning set earlier in week to have more time to complete.

-Bit of general confusion about parameters of home learning and time taken to execute.

RT replied all Learning Log tasks should not take too long unless the child wishes it so. If parents want more structured home learning then it should come from them. Parent requested home learning set on same given day of each week to allow advance planning.

RT showed examples of year 5 home learning to help aid understanding of what was fun & achievable. Reinforced that home learning is complementary to school learning.

Parent: Year 5 activities were not all-inclusive & raised concern over method by which children were selected for various activities. Some children not included felt left out.

GN stated that PTA would be willing to pay for more children to be included.

CA responded that selection for these activities was carefully noted so children only participated in one event. Also stated that it was not possible for entire year group be included in any of activities so far e.g. pizza express & Wagamama could only accommodate a small number of pupils in a session and were unable to host workshop more frequently.

School involvement with Stop HS2 action?

School cannot directly solicit action against HS2 but can compile information regarding protests and disseminate this to parents. School are actively involved in supporting protest, e.g. distributing fliers, giving use of field for upcoming rally.

Next meeting set for 2pm Tuesday May 17 2011.