

MINUTES OF PARENT REPS MEETING

24th MAY 2011

Present:

Mrs Thomson, Mrs Addis, Mr Nicholls(PTA)
Mrs Larard (nursery), Ms Jewell (1S), Mrs Robertson (1S), Mrs Bettis (2B),
Mrs Adams (3B), Mrs Davies (3T), Mrs Rose (4W), Mrs Kynaston (4B)
Mrs Arnold (5K), Mrs Semple (5T), Mrs Hylton (5W), Mrs Piper (6D), Ms Veldkamp (6D)

Apologies for absence received from:

Mrs Davies (2B), Mrs Jarvis (3B), Mrs Lee (3C), Mrs Rothwell (3T), Mrs Glasspoole (3T)
Ms Adams (4W), Mrs May (4B), Mrs Rose (5T), Mr Halling (5W)

Good News items:

- Achieving Food for Life Gold Award, we were described as 'outstanding' and 'inspirational', only the 11th school in the country to achieve this
- Nursery – parents, grandparents etc enjoying being able to see learning logs
- Year 2 loving Mr Hendley
- Year 4 enjoyed Woodrow and Year 5 loved PGL, Year 6 looking forward to France
- Latin Club – everyone improved on their own previous results
- Bingo – good turnout and raised over £400
- School Council children did a great job interviewing new teachers
- What a wonderful community school has with ongoing offers of help for the shop, markets, tutti frutti etc

Requests for parents' help:

- Year 4 School Market 27th May – all covered?
- Village Show 2nd July – theme 'Horrible Histories' – parents or local businesses invited to run/ sponsor events
- PTA Sponsored Walk 10th June – helpers needed in afternoon
- PTA Year 3 Sleepover 24th June
- Buryfield Lane – write down registration numbers of those parents parking illegally or behaving inappropriately. Residents have been sent a letter asking them to do the same. Parents will be 'named and shamed' in newsletter, we need to maintain good relationships with our neighbours.

GOLD – free mufti day 15th July to celebrate Food for Life Award. Children to wear something gold. Press to be invited.

Questions raised by parents:

- Whole school photo – why were some children separated from year group? Grouped by height order to make photo look 'neat'. Photo company has been made aware. Taken every 4 years. Class photos in June.
- Maths in Motion – too much? (Yr 5) Most children found this exciting initially but it

dominated maths teaching this term. Less next year? GM Team are through to national final so it has been a worthwhile project.

- Smaller home learning books to fit into bags – although awkward for children/ parents the teachers like them as 'different', able to stick A4 paper in without folding/ cutting.
- No homework at the end of SATS week – to be fed back to teachers.
- Home Learning – should it be more prescriptive? Teachers to balance homework between maths, English and creative learning ie not just learning logs. Also number of house points awarded very variable, some children <10! Staff to discuss at next staff meeting – aim to make uniform throughout school.
- Head lice – what is school's policy? If seen on child that child cannot be sent home but all the parents in class sent a letter. If continues individual parent contacted. Discussed sending out reminder letter periodically. 'Long hair to be tied up' rule to be enforced more rigorously. Could hats/ clothing be kept separately? How would this work with younger children dressing up?
- Colour of handwriting pens – dark blue when have pen licence but may soon change from Berol to pens which are easier to write with. Children may bring in own fountain pens. School provides handwriting pens. No biro's.
- Showers in swimming pool – children unable to rinse off causing some to have itchy skin would applying cream help? There is no water supply to the swimming pool so no showers and no loos. This stops the pool being used by outside people which would generate money for the school. Could this be a PTA project?
- Tutti Frutti need a fridge to stop soft fruit going off then thrown away. Mrs Semple offered her old fridge. To be sited outside of dining room near water fountain. Would it need a child lock?
- Why no teaching assistants in year 3? There are more TAs in year 3 than any other year! TAs are either attached to a particular child with learning needs (for a certain number of hours a week), work with small groups who require extra help or perform small-team teaching to help the teacher.

Any other business:

- Poor response to PTA question on what to spend money on. Covered sport area won and grants being pursued. Why do we have to think of things to spend it on? Aim to spend money on projects that benefit children raising it.
- Loos in nursery smelly – to be refurbished in summer. Also still not consistently finding hand towels etc in outside loos.
- French trip – some felt expensive (£400+), not much French spoken, PGL facilities not used, lot of time on coach (not just journey there but day trips too). Financial help available from our church and "Go for It" funding, always asked to contribute what you can. Cultural, not activity, trip (PGL in year 5). Felt it is the closest place in France from where everything can be accessed. Great confidence boost at end of KS2 to spend 5 days away, some children's first experience of travelling abroad, envied by other schools. Year 6 do an assembly about the trip for Year 5. Parents get info at evening meeting 30th June.