

Present: Miss Grant, Mrs Hatcher, Mrs Hampson, Mrs Doran, Mrs Webb, Mrs Batts, Mrs Hornsby, Mrs Birch, Mrs Walker, Mrs Forrester

Apologies: Mrs Goodgame,

Update on matters arising from last meeting:

New Matters arising:

1. Staffing: Placement of Teachers

Parents raised concerns that children in Class 2 and 3 had experienced a significant number of changes over the course of the year, particularly in Class 2, and were concerned that there were now further changes.

As a school, we are very conscious of the impact of a change in teacher in the classroom. Unfortunately, it was not possible to plan in advance for the situation that we have found ourselves in as a school. Staff have done everything that they were able to do to cover the remainder of the maternity leave with as minimal disruption as possible. As we said in the letter which came home, we are confident that we have the best possible staffing structure in place for this period of time.

Our intention as a school has been to keep parents and children as informed as possible about upcoming changes; however, it is obviously important for us to ensure that we have clear and workable solutions in place before we communicate these to parents.

2. Governor Changes

A parent asked why parents are not involved in voting the Chair of Governors into position.

Parents are entitled to vote for Parent Governor Representatives on the governing body, when a vacancy arises. The Governing Body is then responsible for the allocation of roles within the Body, including the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Chairs of the sub-committees. You may find further information on this site: www.governor.net.co.uk or contact the Governors directly for further information.

3. Class 1

Parents commented that the parents of children in Class 1 are very happy and commented on the excellent transition from pre-school to Class 1 in terms of building confidence – this compares well to other schools in the area. Thank you for these comments.

4. Privilege Cards

A parent commented that Privilege Cards are not given out consistently, particularly in Classes where there is split-teaching. We will discuss this in our first staff meeting of the Summer Term to ensure that we are as consistent as possible.

5. Who's Who!

Parents commented that they were losing track of who was who within school and found it disorientating not knowing who everybody was. Another parent suggested that we could have a 'Meet the Staff' board with photographs on it, so that parents would know who was who. We could also have Governor and Parent Council members on this board. A parent has very kindly offered to come and take these photographs. In the meantime, please do feel free to pop into classrooms to say hello to teachers you haven't met yet – we are all very friendly!

6. Lunchtimes

Parents raised concerns that their children were being penalised for the poor behaviour of other children at their table. They were also concerned that children were not always able to choose their first choice of dinner each day. Some parents felt that it wasn't fair for children to have to sit near children with challenging behaviour. Parents were pleased about a change to the rule about being silent for a period of time during lunch. Lunchtimes have been a recurring focus of discussion for a long time and there is a definite need for change, which we have identified and begun work on in school.

Unfortunately, unless dinners are ordered, paid for and chosen in advance, there will always be a risk that children will not be able to have their first choice option – a survey will be sent out soon to gauge parents' views on this. With regards to the behaviour of other children on the table; children are regularly moved and there should be no penalising of others for one child's behaviour – through discussions with children and staff I can find no evidence that this has been happening, but I will continue to monitor the situation. While I appreciate parents' concern that their children are negatively affected by the behaviour of others, I would like to reassure you that behaviour in the lunch hall is managed by experienced staff and visitors to our school (from other schools) have commented on how calm and lovely the lunchtime experience is in our school. The minor problems that we have at lunchtime are being addressed following discussions with staff and children over the course of this term. We would really appreciate ongoing feedback about this and parent support in implementing the changes that we have agreed as a school.

7. Direct Debit Payment for Lunch Money

Parents asked if it would be possible to pay monies to the school via Direct Debit through a system like, 'Wise Pay'. *Due to the size of the school and the amount of work needed to set this up, this is not possible at the moment. We are considering a system of payment for lunches in advance only.*

8. P.E. in the hall

A parent commented that children had apparently been doing PE barefoot in the hall, including children who have veruccae. *It is standard practise in schools for children to do indoor PE barefoot, as it allows for a greater freedom of movement. If children have verrucae then they should wear soft plimsolls.*

9. Residential Trips Expense

Some parents were concerned about the cost of the Residential trip for Class 4 in 2015. *In previous years, the Residential trip has been booked 2 years in advance, which has helped to reduce the cost. Unfortunately, this did not happen last year. Before making a provisional booking, I requested quotes from a number of different providers. There were not many places which still had availability; however, those that did were all more expensive than previous years.*

I chose the Condover Hall option as it was by far the best value for money for the activities and facilities offered on the dates that we wanted. For example, one of the companies that we received a quote from offered a 5-night tent accommodation residential for a similar price. Last year, we were given a heavily discounted price for Condover Hall, as the other (cheaper) JCA centre we had initially booked had double-booked. The cheaper centre has now closed down so it is not possible to go there again. The price that parents have been told reflects a discount negotiated with the providers, as I am aware that there is a significant price increase. In addition, we also felt that as the prices quoted were all very similar, it would be best to go with a 'tried and trusted' company.

There is no obligation for schools to provide the opportunity for children to take part in a residential trip and the hard work involved is entirely down to the goodwill of members of staff in organising and running the week. Similarly, there is no obligation for parents to send their children on the residential trips; however, we feel that it is an important and valuable 'rite of passage' for many children, particularly as they come towards the end of their time at primary school. For this reason, we decided to continue to offer this opportunity for 2015.

10. Homework for Year 6 Children

Some parents were concerned about the amount of work given to the Year 6 children who were also attending Easter School. *This was an oversight in planning and has been addressed. A letter to those affected was sent home on the last day of term. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.*

11. Staff Attire

Some parents felt that some members of staff were wearing inappropriate clothing for school. One parent suggested a suit policy. *A suit policy would not be practical within school, as we encourage members of staff to use a range of methods to engage children, including outdoor or messy activities. We have a dress code policy and staff will be reminded of this in staff meetings this term.*

12. Maths Workshops

A parent said that it was a shame that more parents had not attended the maths workshops last term. Other parents commented that it was a difficult time of day for a workshop and that it was unclear who the workshops were aimed at. *Details of the workshops were sent out in a newsletter. Further workshops (later in the evening) will hopefully follow in the Summer Term or as part of the after-assembly Class workshops in the following academic year.*

13. After School Clubs and Sports Grant Money

A parent asked about how money from the Sports Grant is being spent and if it is possible to spend this money on after school clubs. *Yes this is possible but not currently planned. Sports Grant spending for this year and next year was decided with teachers and students and full details will be on the website by the end of the month. Our next topic, 'What does it mean to be healthy?' was planned with a sporting/outdoor focus in mind. A parent has kindly volunteered her husband to run an orienteering/map-reading workshop with Years 5 and 6 – thank you! Another parent has also offered to run an after-school Science Club for next term – thank you!*

14. Arrangements for Next Year

Parents were concerned that a new headteacher has still not been appointed for September and asked what was happening with this. *The Governors who were involved in the recruitment process felt that there was no suitable candidate for the headteacher position in the last round of recruitment. We have worked hard as a school to achieve the Ofsted Outstanding status that we celebrated last year; however, this means that the headship of our school is by no means an easy job. Maintaining a school at the level we are currently at is, in many ways, harder work than achieving this status in the first place. The governors involved reached their decision with support and advice from a County Advisor, based on evidence gathered through an exhaustive interview process. A new advert for the post has already been released and there is time for another interview day before half-term. Please be assured that the governors have the very best interests of the school and your children at heart and are confident that the right person will be appointed in time.*

Meeting closed at 10.00am. Next meeting will be held on Friday 9th May at 9.00am.