

Present: Mark Smith, Kellie Hatcher, Victoria Doran, Jackie Hampson, Jo Webb, Sarah Birch, Claire Wright and

Apologies: Olivia Goodgame

Update on matters arising from last meeting:

New Matters arising:

Claire Wright was welcomed to the meeting as the new representative for Class 1.

1. Astro Pitch

Several parents had commented about the muddy condition of the astro football pitch.

Prior to the meeting work had started to clean the astro pitch as this had already been identified by the school. The pitch is now seven years old and with the wet summer and general build-up of muck over the years the pitch needed a deep clean. This has been organised with the original suppliers to be completed over half term. In addition the school has decided to astro the muddy areas under the trees to reduce the muck carried onto the pitch and also minimise how muddy the children are starting to get at playtimes. This additional work will take place after the holiday.

2. Early morning tasks

Where early morning tasks are set up for parents and children in the morning, it was felt that the tasks are not always straightforward for the parents or children to follow.

Mr Smith explained that the routines are very similar each morning for younger children and that the tasks are planned so that children rotate through them over the week. The tasks are also repetitive to ensure that over time the children understand what they need to do each morning. Mr Smith said he would discuss this with class teachers.

3. Uniform labelling

Several parents have complained about missing sweatshirts and PE kits and that there are many parents who do not label their children's belongings.

Mr Smith agreed that there are many items of un-named clothing in cloakrooms. All unidentified items are left in the age appropriate classes to allow parents to check for any missing items. At parents evening such items were left out on a table for parents to check. Mr Smith explained how important it was for parents to label their children's clothing and would add this to the next newsletter.

4. Childcare – before and after school

Several new parents had asked if the school had considered running breakfast and after-school childcare clubs.

Mr Smith said that the school had run a breakfast club using an outside provider (at the school) several years ago but that the uptake had not been sufficient to make it a financially viable service. As for the after school club, there was not sufficient need at the time. Since then the school has carried out annual audits of need using the childcare development officer in the local authority. The department analyses the returns on behalf of the school and has always found there to be insufficient demand for such services. Mr Smith said though that an audit had not been done in the last twelve months and that the level of need may have changed. He said that he would arrange for a parent survey to be sent home before Christmas.

5. Crèche for sharing assemblies

A few parents had commented that it would be useful for the school to provide a crèche during the sharing assemblies on a Friday.

This was discussed as in the past some members of the parent council had supported looking after younger siblings during assemblies. Staff at the school cannot be expected to provide such a service but Mr Smith said that if a few parents would be willing to do so with a teaching assistant, it could be a possibility for next term.

6. Year 6 Trip to Boulogne

Several of the Year 6 parents wanted to thank the school and in particular Miss Grant and Mrs Bostock for the fantastic organisation that went into planning the French trip. The children had an amazing time and overall it was a brilliant experience.

Mr Smith said he would like to thank the Year 6 parents for their comments.

7. Elderbank Hall Car Park

Several parents had mentioned that some parents are parking inconsiderably and taking up more than one parking space in the morning and at the end of the day. In addition some parents are still driving into the car park at speed which is dangerous to children and adults.

It was also raised that several parents are parking in the surrounding streets and often on pavements/corners of roads which makes crossing the roads very difficult.

Mr Smith expressed his concern and said that he would put a reminder about considerate parking in the next newsletter. He would also contact the PCSO again if the problem persisted after the half term break.

8. Transition

Parents had expressed their appreciation for the smooth transition that the children had made from one class to another this September. It was said how hard the staff work to ensure that children had settled into their new classes.

In addition parents of the new children in Class 1 had said how well their children had settled into school this year. They felt that Mrs Winter and Mrs Godfrey had got 'everything right' in helping the children settle into school.

Mr Smith said that the school had worked hard over the last few years to make transition as smooth as possible and that this process always starts in the summer term so that children feel confident with the change of class/teacher.

9. Christmas Concerts

A parent had asked if a staff member could check tickets to Christmas plays on the door this year. Some families felt last year that other families were bringing more people than their allocated two tickets.

Mr Smith said that each year, the aim is to check tickets but the organising of children for the start of the plays always takes over all staff members time. Mr Smith said that the school would try to ensure that tickets were checked on the door for evening performances this year.

Meeting closed at 10.15am. Next meeting Friday 30th November 2012 at 9.00am.