

Stanford Infant School

Minutes of Parent Class Representatives Meeting 7th December 2017 @ 9:15am

Attendees:

Madeleine Denyer (MD), Mia Sargent (Alex Class); Rebecca Hutt (Pier Class); Bidy Carter (Dolphin Class); Nigel Stock (Marina Class); Rachael Pucci, Susannah Pattison (Lagoon Class); Jyoti Kakad (Pavilion Class); Sally Churchyard (Ocean Class); Jenny Attfield and Sylvia Den Aantrekker (Regent Class).

Apologies received from:

Helen Johnston and Danielle Holden (Marina Class) and Zubeida Dasgupta-Clark (Ocean Class).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

There were no matters arising; however, MD is delighted that the 'wall' will no longer be a regular feature in the minutes!

The new-style Newsletter will be launched in the new year.

PTFA:

Jyoti said that everything was in place for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday and answered any final queries from the Parent Reps. Please remember to keep receipts for any individual purchases of stock for your stall.

General Comments / Feedback from the Representatives:

Christmas Performances

Comment: *is there a possibility that there could be more than one performance of the Christmas Productions for parents/carers to attend?*

Response: the children are beginning to rehearse ready for the performances on the last three days of term. It would not be possible to perform them more than once to families, as they already perform to the whole school at the Dress Rehearsal and we need to ensure familiar routines are maintained to keep the school a safe, happy and calm place to be! We are lucky that all three Year Groups put on their own performance and the children are in the hall for whole performance; however, this is a 'big ask' of the children (and staff!) at this time of year and they do incredibly well.

The reps then asked about the possibility of the performances being filmed, so that younger siblings/other family members could watch at their leisure! ***UPDATE*** thanks to Bidy Carter, Dolphin Class Rep, who put us in contact with someone, we are delighted to announce that we have organised for the main performance for each Year Group to be professionally filmed this year. The DVD's will cost £10 each.

Drinking Water

Comment: *the children are not drinking much water in class; can they be encouraged to do so more frequently?*

Response: the children should be in the habit of drinking water – they are reminded to drink from their water bottles and there are water fountains for them to drink from. MD will remind staff to encourage the children to drink little and often; at school we often call it 'Brain Juice'! The water fountains are available for the children to use at playtimes/lunchtimes and all children are provided with a drink of water when they have their lunch.

A reminder that this item is on the FAQ document.

Lunchtimes

Comment: *are children forced to eat their lunch and is their enough time for children to eat? How does the school monitor this?*

Response: the children are encouraged to eat the majority of their main meal before they have their pudding, e.g. "one more mouthful". The MDSA's monitor what the children are eating, **P.T.O**

whether School Meal or Packed Lunch, and if there is ever a concern of the amount of food eaten, this is passed directly to the class teacher, who will report to the parents/carers.

Some children from one class have reported they are forced to finish their lunch; MD can assure every parent/carer that this is certainly not the case and if parents/carers are concerned about their child's lunch they should speak directly to their child's teacher or alternatively come and see MD.

There are 3 sittings and the children get approximately 20/30 minutes minimum per sitting. However, if they have not finished their lunch in their allocated time there are spare tables at the front of the hall for them to move to so that they can finish. Children are never rushed; however, they will be reminded to eat their lunch if they are spending most of their time chatting! MD regularly monitors the lunch hall and has been having a School Meal with the children once a week. It was requested that this item is included on the FAQ document; it is already detailed on the document.

Home Learning Books in Year 2

Comment: is it possible to have some clarity regarding the expectations of the Home Learning Grid. The parents/carers value our approach to Home Learning; however, it is not always clear, especially when children are not so keen to participate at home and therefore some guidance would be gratefully received.

Response:

The Home Learning Grid is there to *inspire* and motivate children and develop their interests. The aim is that children will immerse themselves in their Learning Journey and find different ways to show what they know and can do. MD has spoken to Mrs. Walker, Year 2 Leader, and agreed that a letter will be sent home with the Spring 1 Home Learning Grid, explaining the rationale behind the Home Learning Books and the school's expectations of them.

MD said she would be revising the school's Home Learning Policy, to detail the school's approach to Home Work and some 'top tips' for supporting your child at home. As you will know, the school has a casual approach to homework, as we believe that the children work incredibly hard when they are with us and therefore deserve some 'down time' when they are at home. There has also been much research into the impact of Home Work and overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning. However, we aim to encourage parental engagement and share curriculum information that will enable families to support activities, which relate directly to what is being taught.

Sports' Fun Afternoons for Year 2

Comment: are there contingency plans in place to ensure the current Year 2's participate in their Sports' Fun Afternoon this academic year?

Response: we have to book BHASVIC playing fields a year in advance; for this academic year, we have booked an additional day in case an afternoon is cancelled due to adverse weather. We promise the current Year 2's will have their Sports' Fun Afternoon in 17-18!

Book Browse

Comment: how is Book Browse structured and does it happen every day? How can parents/carers support this?

Response: Book Browse (or Reading Workshop in Year 2) is planned for every day. The children participate in a range of activities each week, including reading with the class teacher, participating in a follow-up activity with the class TA, reading for pleasure, using a computer program (Rigby Star Reading, Phonics Play or Spelling Play, etc.) or playing a phonic game, to name a few.

Our Reading Groups are fluid and all have motivational names – Magnificent, Fantastic, Superb, etc. This information was presented at the recent Parent/Carer Reading Workshop, where our approach was shared, along with a short video showcasing Book Browse/Reading Workshop. The rep asked how parents/carers should support reading at home; there has been information circulated previously and other reps shared their understanding of what was expected. The reading leaflet distributed at the workshop can be found by clicking here: <http://www.stanfordinfants.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Learning-to-Read-at-Stanford-Infants-leaflet-for-families.pdf> or you can request a copy from the School Office.

Playtimes

Comment: *do children go out to play together, are they missing playtime as a result of not all being ready to go out?*

Response: all children in a class get ready to go out to play and then line up in their classrooms before being taken directly onto the playground for their 15-minute playtime. Playtime is an integral part of our day and again, MD can assure all parents/carers that no class has missed their entire playtime. A teacher(s) and all support staff need to be out at playtime, as they are assigned a 'zone' to equip and support positive play. The zones divide our playground into specific activity areas that offer opportunities for children to channel their energies and use their time in imaginative and creative ways. Staff instigate and encourage different types of play. There are split plays for Years 1 and 2 on a Mon, Wed and Thurs, to afford the children greater opportunities for using the equipment and participating in games. This means that meticulous timetabling is in place to ensure that everyone is out when they should be and there is also a small window of opportunity where teachers who are not on duty can prepare for the next lesson, catch up on some marking, or even treat themselves to a cup of tea/coffee and go to the toilet! We pride ourselves on happy, healthy and well-managed playtimes and lunchtimes, which offer considerable opportunities for the children to learn social, emotional and behavioural skills.

Thursdays in Reception

Comment: *some parents/carers have noticed that their children are particularly exhausted on a Thursday and wondered whether this was in part because they have PE and Yoga on the same day and some then participate in Multi-Sports after school. Could the PE Timetable be shared so that parents/carers could make an informed decision regarding whether to book a place on After School Activity Clubs?*

Response: the PE Timetable is saved on our website under School Info/Sports at Stanford, click here: <http://www.stanfordinfants.co.uk/sports/> or please ask your child's teacher. It is reviewed on a half-termly basis and therefore this information will be considered when planning the timetable for Spring 1.

Parent Mail

Comment: *could the school consider this APP for communications to and from school?*

Response: Miss Parker, Office Manager, is currently reviewing our communication package and will consider this as one of the options. We currently use 'Teachers2Parents' and therefore we would need to wait for our contract to expire before selecting a new communication package. Obviously, cost is a contributing factor; however, we will consider all options to try to make essential communication simpler for everyone!

Trees

Comment: *are the trees in the playground checked, particularly at this time of year with high winds, etc.?*

Response: yes, our trees are checked on an annual basis. This used to be undertaken by the Local Authority; however, the school now enlists a recommended tree surgeon company to undertake a visual inspection of the trees and provide tree condition reports. RW Green Ltd has been out this term and have provided a condition report. However, Mr Almy, Premises Officer, and the staff also undertake a dynamic risk assessment of our trees on a daily basis.

P.T.O

Parent Class Representatives 2017-2018

CLASS	PARENT REPS	CHILD'S NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
<u>ALEX</u>	Mia Sargent	Arthur	miabsargent@gmail.com
	Karen O'Hehir	Sienna	karen.ohehir@experis.co.uk
<u>PALACE</u>	Tom Counsell / Catherine Will	Fred	tom@counsell.org catherine@cmwill.org
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	Amy Nel	Indy	amynelsb@gmail.com
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The Meeting ended at 9:50am.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1st February 2018 @ 9:15am.