

Stanford Infant School

Minutes of Class Representatives Virtual Meeting 3rd December 2020 @ 9:30am

Attendees:

Madeleine Denyer (MD); Esther Shepherd (Alex Class); Stephanie Downes, Suzi Butler (Palace Class); Emma Mowatt, Georgina Marsh (Pier Class); Natasha Robinson, Jade Doutre (Dolphin Class); Kirsty Hewitt (Lagoon Class); June Marsh (Pavilion Class); Geraldine Marsh, Claire Foster (Regent Class).

Apologies:

Liz Turner (Alex Class); Gemma Cocker (Marina Class); Hannah Emmanuel (Ocean Class).

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising:

After School Clubs – Main Agenda Item

Christmas Performance – More information is being sent home today via SchoolPing

Dolphin Class Drop Off/Collection – this has improved significantly, now that families stand around the Climbing Frame.

Forest School – Main Agenda Item

Learning – to be discussed during class feedback, as has been raised again

Year 2 Home Learning – Year 2 children received their Home Learning books and grids at the beginning of this Learning Journey.

Hot Meals – From January, we will resume our Hot Meal offer. MD is just confirming the logistics with the School Meals Team. We are in a strong position, given that our children have had their lunch in the Hall in Year Groups since September, rather than in classrooms. A copy of the menu was circulated in the last Newsletter and is posted on our website.

Reception – General/Toileting – this has all improved.

After School Clubs – MD is currently liaising with the After School Providers and hopes to reinstate some clubs in a Covid-secure way from January. More information about the clubs on offer, days, times, and costings, will be circulated ASAP. A Reception parent/carer asked whether new Reception families would be included in the provision and MD said she would confirm everything after liaising with the providers.

Whilst we understand families have been keen for these to be reinstated, our priority remains the health, safety and wellbeing of the whole school community, whilst we continue to navigate our way through this global pandemic. We are working tirelessly to ensure the school can remain open for all during this period, and can only do that with stringent control measures in place.

Breakfast Club was mentioned – to confirm, this has been running since September, with successful control measures in place.

Forest School – plans are in progress and transformation of the site starts this weekend!

Unfortunately, the landscape gardener we had been put in contact with had no availability until at least the summer term; however, we have got a plan in place, which we hope you can support with. MD will circulate a letter providing more information, including how families can support. In essence, all classes will receive an Outdoor Learning session per week in the Forest School and one class (Reception initially) will have a whole afternoon for half a term of accredited Forest School.

Class Feedback:

Lunchtimes

Comment: *Reception children not eating their packed lunch due to time. This is affecting their learning/behaviour/tiredness.*

Response: all children have half-an-hour in the hall to eat their lunch. This is enough time for the children who have a school lunch; however, aware that some children with packed lunches need longer. They are always encouraged to take their lunch to the playground and are supervised to

P.T.O

finish their lunch under the shelter. Some children say they are full and do not want to finish everything provided by home. MD will review and continue to monitor. The Reception children are also provided with a school snack in the afternoon, or can eat a healthy school snack. If any families are concerned about specific individuals, please email the School Office, and we will address.

Reception Timetable

Comment: *although we know planning is reviewed frequently, it would help parents/carers if they knew when their child studied French/Music to aid follow up discussions about learning after school.*

Response: this is a good suggestion and a quick fix! Timetables of key daily/weekly activities will be posted on the School Website for each Year Group.

The Reception reps mentioned that not all Reception families have an understanding of the school day – they were really appreciative of the early Parents’ Consultations and receiving the electronic Learning Journals. However, when their child was at Nursery they were used to receiving daily/weekly updates of children’s activities and feel unaware of their child’s life at school. The Learning Journals will be circulated home again before Christmas.

We are looking to improve our School Website and already have ideas in order to share with you some of the wonderful things that are going on in each Year Group, so you can get a glimpse into your child’s day. More info to follow.

Email Tone

Comment: *whilst Reception parents/carers are appreciative of communication from the school, they have expressed concern that the tone of emails being sent home is not always positive.*

Response: we pride ourselves on being positive; however, due to the current situation, it has been necessary to remind all our families of the restrictions in place in order to keep everyone safe and well. We understand that many families have one support bubble and this was not the issue. We made the conscious decision to write these reminders as part of the email text rather than include in the Newsletter, which celebrate the work of the whole school community. Appreciate that email correspondence can be misconstrued and there is never an easy way of communicating difficult messages. Any reminders are for the whole school and not targeted at individual Classes/Year Groups, etc. Also fully appreciate it can be overwhelming for new Reception families, especially given the restrictions in place, which do not allow them to get to know the school and it’s wonderful community.

Staff Absence

Comment: *although parents/carers are aware that Covid impacts staffing in cases of needing to self-isolate, etc. What is in place if TA’s are absent to ensure continuity of learning and support for class teachers?*

Response: when a teacher is absent, we try to cover internally, with either MD (Head) or ER (Deputy) covering, rather than getting a Supply Teacher. There are no additional TA’s; however, we do try to redeploy staff to offer support and the Year Group also works together to ensure that the class/teacher is supported.

Birthday List

Comment: *is it okay for the class to share the birthdays of pupils with each other so that they can have cards brought in on their birthday? They could be given to the parents in the playground so they are not bringing into school classrooms.*

Response: we would not be able to send the names of children and their DOB’s home due to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Due to Covid, we aim to avoid exchanging things from home where practicably possible. Not every child celebrates their birthday and this is also respected. In the interests of Poverty Proofing our school day, we also would not want families to

P.T.O

feel left out if they did not send or receive cards.

Our whole school policy is as follows - if children want to celebrate their birthday with the rest of the class, then a book can be given for the class Book Corners. Teachers will not distribute 30 cakes or bags of sweets. This supports our Healthy Schools status, ensures that children with food allergies or intolerances are included and promotes a real love of reading at the school.

Maths Challenge

Comment: *praise for Maths Challenge – really good idea.*

Response: Miss Ingram will be delighted to know these have been well received; thank you for the positive feedback. The staff are thinking creatively about how we can support learning at home.

Parent Volunteers

Comment: *is there any way that parents/carers can volunteer or support?*

Response: under normal circumstances we would love to welcome parents/carers into school for a variety of activities; however, due to the current control measures in place, we have to restrict visitors into school. When we are able to operate as near to normal as possible, we will ensure all families are given many opportunities to get more involved in the life of the school.

On that note, Reception reps mentioned that Reception families are understandably disappointed that they cannot get as involved in school life as they would like. We completely understand and recognise this and are trying to think of creative ways to keep everyone involved. Ordinarily, we would be gearing up to transform our school into a 'Winter Wonderland' for our Christmas Fayre this weekend... As soon as we can, we will ensure that families are included and involved in the life of the school and plan a BIG event to bring everyone back together!

Reading Books

Comment: *some Reception parents/carers, despite watching the videos, etc. are a bit confused about the reading books, mainly the frequency they should be read, should they be repeated and that reminding children to swap independently isn't working.*

Response: MD will send a letter to provide more detail on the school's approach to Home Reading. Mrs Walker, English Lead, has recorded a video specifically to support Home Reading, which is on the same page. This was intended for Years 1 and 2 families but may also be useful for Reception families. If you have any further questions about Home Reading, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

Christmas Performances

Comment: *please could we get details of them ASAP so parents/carers can arrange to view if working, or will they be recorded?*

Response: a SchoolPing message has been sent home today, with more information as follows: As you will know, Christmas will look a little different in school this year, but we have many festive plans and still want to bring our whole school community together! Our Christmas Musical is bubble friendly and we will discover a little bit about Christmas around the globe. Your wonderful children have been busy practicing songs from around the world, and these will be put together, to celebrate Children around the World. Each class will perform their song, and this will be filmed on Friday next week, when the children are in their Christmas clothes ready for the Santa Dash! The individual songs will be put together for a whole school performance and we would like to share this with you. We plan to send the link to 'Christmas around the World' in the last week of term.

Dog Mess!

Comment: *there appears to be a lot of dog poo on the journey to and from school. Appreciate it is not the school's issue; however, does the school know of anyone who can be contacted?*

Response: you can report the issue here: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-problem-and-request-clean>. We will report on behalf of the school; however, it would be beneficial for parents/carers to also report the problem.

P.T.O

Christmas Gifts

Comment: *does the school have any restrictions in place regarding staff presents, given the Covid situation? Some schools are saying gifts need to be put in a specific place and quarantined before staff can access them.*

Response: MD said she would leave it to the discretion of the member of staff as to how they would receive any gifts, as they are washing/sanitising their hands all the time!

A reminder of the recommendations from our Poverty Proofing Report, alongside the agreement from the Parent Reps previously. *Consider other ways that children can show their appreciation to their teacher rather than bringing in gifts* – the reps agreed this was a personal choice and some would want to bring a gift or contribute to a collection; however, this should be completely voluntary. The reps agreed that families can be invited to contribute to a collection but no amount should ever be suggested.

Top-tips to make this Covid-friendly: set-up a PayPal account for parents/carers to contribute to privately if they wish and the donations are anonymous. No class cards this year.

Christmas Cards

Comment: *are children able to send Christmas Cards to each other?*

Response: in keeping with our Eco Values, we have always encouraged the children to send just one card to their class, rather than thirty individual cards. This not only saves on resources and time distributing the cards, but also avoids upset for any children not receiving cards at the same time as their peers.

Due to Covid, we will not be inviting children to send/receive cards to each other this year. There are plenty of other festive activities happening in school.

School Trips and Visits

Comment: *will school trips and visits be reviewed for the Spring Term?*

Response: yes, all school trips and visits are under constant review. At the current time, we are unable to confirm anything; however, will let families know as soon as there are any updates.

Videos

Comment: *parents/carers are loving the videos that have been posted on the School's Website for Prospective Families.*

Response: we are glad they have been well-received. On that note, MD asked for feedback on the Workshop Presentations teachers had posted on the School Website in the absence of being able to hold the workshops in school. The reps commented positively on these and thanked the staff for creating them.

MD thanked the reps for their time. The Meeting ended at 10:15am.

Date of Next Meeting: **Thursday 28th January @ 9:30am**