

Stanford Infant School
Minutes of Parent Class Representatives Meeting 11th July 2019 @ 9:15am

Attendees:

Madeleine Denyer (MD), Amy Robbs (Alex Class); Julia Pettigrew, Martin Hansford (Palace Class); Esther Shepherd, Susannah Kyriacou (Pier Class); Emily Long (Dolphin Class); Nisha Sharma (Lagoon Class); Helen Hauduc (Marina Class); Clare Nolan (Regent Class).

Apologies received from:

Katie Floyd (Alex Class), Jess Biggs (Dolphin Class); Alison Kennedy (Lagoon Class); Lucy Lefroy, Lesley McCune (Pavilion Class); Sarah Nield & Paul Garner (Ocean Class).

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising:

SATs – whilst parents/carers completely appreciate that the school aims to administer the SATs Tests discretely, they feel it should be acknowledged that the children do notice a difference, especially due to the organisation of the classroom. Some parents/carers noticed a change in their child during their administration too.

MD asked if there was anything the Year 2 rep thought the school could do, but the rep said parents/carers would like it acknowledged.

Class Feedback:

Pen Marks on School Uniform

Comment: *Some children are coming home with pen on their School Uniform, which does not come out. Does the school use permanent markers? Not sure if it is a school issue or After School Club.*

Response: MD said all our felt-tip/whiteboard marker pens are washable for that very reason; please accept our apologies for any marks. Top Tips from the Reps: 40 degrees with Persil worked on a School Uniform last night. Applying fairy liquid to the stain before washing can also work.

School Uniform Policy

Comment: *please can there be a reminder about the School Uniform policy? Some children are wearing fancy headgear/sparkly shoes to school and other children are then wanting to wear these items to school, which makes it difficult for families.*

Response: Our School Uniform Policy is as follows:

We strongly encourage our children to wear our simple uniform. It consists of:

- Plain grey or black 'school' trousers, shorts or skirt **OR**
- Plain grey or green tracksuit trousers
- Summer school dress i.e. green and white check or stripes
- Green or white, short sleeved 'polo' type
- Green Sweatshirt or fleece
- Green or grey cardigan

Children should wear 'proper' school shoes rather than trainers and we would strongly discourage you from allowing them to wear open-toe sandals to school as their toes can easily be hurt in the very busy playground. For younger children, particularly Reception, please try and send your child to school with shoes that fasten with Velcro and not shoe laces. Shoelaces can easily come undone and this can be dangerous in a crowded playground. It also takes valuable teaching and learning time for us to do them up time after time.

However, it is parent/carers responsibility to ensure their children adhere to the policy. MD will put regular reminders in Newsletters.

Top Tip from one of the Reps: if you take your children's outgrown shoes to a Schuh Kids store, they will swap them for a £5 voucher towards a new pair of shoes. You'll get a voucher for every pair you donate. The shoes are given to a charity called 'Newlife Foundation' who help disabled and terminally ill children in the UK.

P.T.O

Class Collections

Comment: *there has been some concern with regards to end-of-year collections for staff, which we had aimed to 'Poverty Proof' following our audit at the beginning of the academic year.*

Response: MD said that there is absolutely no expectation that parents/cares will contribute to a class collection.

Parents/carers should be able to thank members of staff in any way they feel appropriate, a verbal recognition of thanks or a card is just as appreciated as a gift. Staff would be mortified if they felt there was any pressure with collections/gifts. The reps had suggested a donation of £1; however, said it was still difficult for families to contribute when it is so visual. One rep said she was collecting donations in separate envelopes to ensure privacy.

A reminder of the recommendations from our Poverty Proofing Report, alongside the agreement from the Parent Reps earlier in the year:

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.

One of the reps said that their class has set-up a PayPal account for parents/carers to contribute privately if they wish and the donations are anonymous.

SchoolPing

Comment: *one parent in Reception still has an issue with SchoolPing – they have been into school and contacted the developers of the App.*

Response: MD requested the name of the parent so we can try to rectify this with SchoolPing and send paper communication home in the meantime.

Additional Needs Network

Comment: *some parents/carers with children who have additional needs have set-up a support network, which is beneficial in terms of support and practical advice is also shared. Is there a possibility for the school to facilitate this?*

Response: Miss Remnant holds a coffee morning for parents/carers of children with Education Health Care Plans; however, we are happy to facilitate this if parents/carers feel it would be beneficial. We will organise the first one in September/October.

Class Photo Communication

Comment: *one parent/carer did not get their child's class photo and didn't realise they had been sent home until they saw a message on Classlist; therefore, please can a message be sent home on SchoolPing to let parents/carers know when to check Book Bags. It would also be helpful to do this when any other school info is sent home, as most is sent electronically.*

Response: this will be actioned straightaway – we will send a reminder that reports have gone home and aim to send reminders for all other school communication sent home in Book Bags/with children.

Golden Choices

Comment: *how are Golden Choices allocated? One child has been desperate to do cookery all year!*

Response: lolly sticks are used with children's names on, so children are selected randomly. The children select their Golden Choice from the ones with spaces. Each choice has a certain capacity and cookery is extremely popular; however, as the child is in Reception, they still have two years to do cookery.

Attendance Certificates

Comment: *one parent/carer feels it is inappropriate to give children certificates for their attendance.*

Response: individual children are not given certificates, just the whole class on a termly basis.

Pen Recycling Scheme

Comment: *Rymans do a pen-recycling scheme, would the school be happy to be involved?*

Response: absolutely and thank you. A box will be in the Main School Office from September for pen recycling.

School Development and Improvement Plan Review:

The School's Development and Improvement Plan; is our working document that sets out the school's aspirations for the year ahead. Although we are a successful school we are never complacent and are always looking for ways to improve children's learning experiences. There was no direct feedback from families. All members of the school community will contribute to the full review of the SDIP for 18-19. The experience and views of pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors, will form essential elements of celebrating successes and identifying priorities for development. A copy of the Final Review will be posted on our website in September, once all the information has been collated.

Thanks:

Overall thanks was given to staff for a fantastic year.

MD would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parent Class Representatives for their hard work and commitment in providing an invaluable link between home and school once again this academic year.

The Meeting ended at 9:45am.