

Stanford Infant School

Minutes of Parent Class Representatives Meeting 16th May 2019 @ 9:15am

Attendees:

Madeleine Denyer (MD), Julia Pettigrew, Martin Hansford (Palace Class); Esther Shepherd, Susannah Kyriacou (Pier Class); Jess Biggs (Dolphin Class); Alison Kennedy (Lagoon Class); Helen Hauduc (Marina Class); Sarah Nield (Ocean Class); Lesley McCune (Pavilion Class).

Apologies received from:

Emily Long (Dolphin Class); Lucy Lefroy (Pavilion Class); Clare Nolan (Regent Class).

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising:

SchoolPing – Miss Parker had kindly stayed for both Parents' Evenings and set-up a display to highlight the features of School Ping. On the first evening no one approached her, so on the second evening she asked for direct feedback. Overall, everyone asked preferred SchoolPing to the previous communication package and Miss Parker was able to rectify any minor hitches with the app. There was some feedback around not having the facility to search for documents and Miss Parker has relayed this information to SchoolPing.

BA Academy – Miss Parker has confirmed with BA Academy that they have applied to be registered with Ofsted so they can accept Childcare Vouchers. We will let families know as soon as their application has been approved.

Fancy Dress Swap Box – this is established in the 'Swap Box' outdoor cupboard by the Hall Door, so please help yourselves!

Stay and Play – there had been a successful Stay and Play session on Monday and further opportunities for families to stay on after drop-off will be organised for the remainder of the summer term.

Class Feedback:

School Newsletter

Comment: *a parent finds it difficult to read the School Newsletter on her phone and does not have a computer or laptop. Could copies be available by the Reception Classrooms?*

Response: MD said there are paper copies available in the main Reception Area; however, the school is also more than happy to provide paper copies of school communication to any parent/carers who request it. Please let Miss Whittington in the School Office know if you would like paper copies of the Newsletter sent home in your child's Book Bag.

School Trip Pack Lunch Options

Comment: *is it possible for the School Kitchen to offer an alternative option to cheese sandwiches, as their child does not like cheese?*

Response: MD is happy to ask the School Meals Team; however, would imagine that the answer is likely to be no. As we are sure parents/carers can appreciate, it is a big undertaking to prepare a significant number of packed lunches before the children leave for their trip. The option has to be vegetarian and easily transportable. One of the reps suggested that the parent/carer could provide the sandwich alternative and the school provide the rest of the lunch.

School Communications

Comment: *please could the school remind parents/carers of PTFA Events, e.g. the Cake Sale?*

Response: it has been agreed that SchoolPing will communicate school information and Classlist will deliver PTFA events, to avoid duplication and overload! However, all events are mentioned in the School Newsletter, on the Diary Dates, on the School Website and displayed around the school.

Changing of School Books!

Comment: *children still aren't changing their school books regularly, even though parents/carers know the children are reminded collectively to do so.*

P.T.O

Response: as suggested in the previous minutes, please speak directly to class teachers if individual children are not changing their books regularly. A reminder that parents/carers are also welcome to come into school to change books with their child if they want to.

Sporting Opportunities

Comment: *is there any possibility of the Year 2 children doing some of their PE Lessons on BHASVIC Playing Fields?*

Response: firstly, it is difficult to book the field, as it is already used by the Junior and Secondary Schools. Secondly, due to the age of the children, the Risk Assessment determines a ratio of 1:6; therefore, we would need more adult support. Whilst parents/carers may offer, we can't always rely on this, which provides an additional pressure on staff. Our PE and Sport is very carefully planned and we are working hard to ensure we give every child the physical literacy, emotional and thinking skills to achieve in PE and Sport and life. The additional travelling time would deduct the time spent on quality PE and Sport Lessons.

Transition

Comment: *when will the transition for new Year Groups begin?*

Response: it has already started! Comprehensive transition programmes are being developed and a timeline for each respective year group will be circulated to families after half-term.

For an overview:

There will be circle times regarding transition, opportunities for teachers to visit the children in their current classes and for them to visit their new classrooms from September and meet with their teachers. This also happens for children in Year 2 going to the Junior School. Each Year 2 child will be allocated a 'buddy' and will have the opportunity to write to them and receive a response. Junior School staff will visit the Infants and vice versa.

There are also transition meetings for all families:

Reception – Year 1 is planned for Thursday 4th July @ 7:30pm.

Year 1 – Year 2 is planned for Thursday 11th July @ 7:30pm.

Year 2 – Year 3 for those attending Stanford Junior School; Thursday 20th June @ 6:30pm.

Comment: *on the note of transition, when will parents/carers find out which class their child will be in next academic year?*

Response: we are still in the process of organising next academic year; however, hope to be able to circulate the information home soon after half-term.

SATs

Comment: *why were Year 2 parents/carers not informed about the SATs?*

Response: As a school, there is NO pressure in completing the SATs tests, we are far more concerned with the quality of teaching and learning that takes place on a daily basis rather than a 'snapshot' of a test! They should just affirm what we already know. They are presented as quizzes and the children are just told to try their best. They had fun activities to do either before or after completing them. Many children have said they enjoyed them and even asked for more! In the past, some parents/carers have made a deal out of them and even bought practice SATs papers for children to complete before school; therefore, we keep it very low key. However, the Key Stage 1 assessment period is detailed in the diary dates.

For information, teachers will use the results from the tests, along with all the learning your child has done throughout the year, to help them reach their own professional judgements about how your child is progressing at the end of KS1. More information will be circulated with your child's academic report of progress and achievement at the end of the academic year and you will receive the teacher assessment judgement alongside the results of the tests.

The tests are not qualifications and do not affect your child's future options in school. The results are an opportunity to compare pupils nationally to ensure schools are helping pupils to master the basics in English and Maths.

P.T.O

Gardening

Comment: *would the school be happy for parents/carers to undertake gardening within the school grounds.*

Response: yes! There are regular pleas for green-fingered volunteers, as our grounds are an ongoing challenge. We would be delighted for a grounds team to come and transform the path leading up to the school. Please let the School Office know if you are interested, thank you!

Open Afternoons

Comment: *when school events are rescheduled, is it possible to keep them on the same day, as parents/carers have these days in mind?*

Response: MD said she fully appreciated that a change of date is not ideal; however, in this instance, we felt it was better for the children and staff. We did try to facilitate the same days of the week; however, there were many other factors involved, including ensuring MD/ER were available to serve the teas and coffees! Thank you for your understanding on this occasion.

The following items were received after the meeting via email:

Packed Lunches

Comment: *why is it that the rubbish from eaten food is returned in the box; understand that uneaten food is returned so that parents/carers can see what has been eaten but doesn't understand why the rubbish can't be disposed of at school to avoid smelly lunch boxes.*

Response: the children can dispose of their rubbish in the bins provided; however, staff do not do this, therefore if the child puts it back in their lunchbox, then it goes home again. Please just ask your child to use the bins at school.

Lunch Buddies

Comment: *some children in Reception have been told by a lunch buddy that they can't have any pudding because they haven't eaten enough. One child did not have their pudding as a result of this.*

Response: it is not the role or responsibility of the buddies to monitor food consumption and MD will ensure that the buddies are reminded of this. Please let the school know straight away if this happens, so we can speak to the buddies in question, as they change on a weekly basis. MD will monitor.

Other Items:

Children's Parade Thanks

Note of thanks to the staff for a wonderful and hugely memorable Children's Parade. The Samba Band looked and sounded amazing and the kids had a wonderful day.

Reception Farm Trip

The Reception children had a wonderful time at Godstone Farm last week and the piglet racing was a real highlight!

Academic Reports of Progress and Achievement

MD said that teachers would soon begin to write the children's end of academic year reports of progress and achievement. MD asked whether the Parent Reps thought that parents/carers would be happy to receive the reports electronically, or if the preference would be to remain with paper copies. The Parent Reps unanimously said that paper copies would be preferable, as it is something to read more than once and share with your child. They are often shared with other family members too. MD said the reports take a significant amount of teacher time; therefore, she is more concerned that they are read and valued, so we will continue to send them home as a paper copy.

The Meeting ended at 9:35am.

Date of Next Meeting: **Thursday 27th June @ 9:15am**