

## **Stanford Infant School**

### **Minutes of Class Representatives Virtual Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 @ 9:15am**

#### **Attendees:**

Madeleine Denyer (MD), Andrew Eastel (Alex Class); Gabbi Naylor (Palace Class); Kerry Wallis (Dolphin Class); Georgina Marsh, Annie Parsons (Lagoon Class); Esther Shepherd (Marina Class); Kirsty Hewitt (Pavilion Class); Jade Doutré, Natasha Robinson (Regent Class).

**Apologies:** Suzie Jespersion, Jessica Penney (Ocean Class).

**Minutes from the Last Meeting** – these were agreed.

#### **Matters Arising**

BA Academy Payment Options - Miss Parker had been in contact with BA Academy, who have said that they are unable to offer multiple payment options online; however, if parents/carers contact them directly, they can arrange an alternative payment plan. This has been detailed on the After School Club list for January 2022, which will be circulated home. Any problems, please contact the School Office.

Musical Instruments (Year 2 Specific) – this should have been resolved. Musical Instrument lessons have begun for Year 2 on a Thursday.

Picnic Benches/Obstacles in the Playground – this issue should have been resolved.

Year 1 Tapestry – Year 1 have circulated a letter home to families providing more information.

#### **Class/General Feedback:**

Firstly, thanks were given from families for continuing to navigate the pandemic and acting quickly to any infection rates. Get well messages were also shared for MD – thank you!

#### **Covid Cases**

Comment: *some of the parents are finding the increase in cases worrying and would be good to understand the next steps for school if the cases continue to increase, i.e. what is the threshold for after school clubs stopping/going to bubbles/school having to close or finish early for Christmas. How many other layers are there to the RA? Could this be shared again with parents?*

Response: this is totally understandable – in essence we have implemented our Outbreak Management Plan in response to the cases in the school. This plan is based on the Contingency Framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the Schools Operational Guidance, provided by the Department of Education (DfE). As a school, we had never relaxed our measures and have been in Year Group Bubbles since returning in September and have never held any whole school events. We are now in Class Bubbles.

All Covid Risk Assessments, Policies and Procedures can be found on the School Website, '[All Things Covid](#)'.

We are being extremely vigilant and thank all families for supporting us with the additional measures we have put back in place; face coverings at drop off and pick up, not sending their child to school if they display any symptoms, no matter how mild, taking regular Lateral Flow Devices (LFD's) and booking a PCR test if others in the class have tested positive. All these measures will help break the chain of infection.

In terms of After School Clubs, they also have a Risk Assessment and we asked them to implement more stringent measures to minimize mixing of groups of children. They are either in the Playground or in the Hall, which are well-ventilated areas.

We undertake rigorous contact tracing for any positive cases and if we felt the cases were linked to attendance at a Club, then we would implement further restrictive measures.

All measures will remain under constant review.

School attendance remains mandatory and the usual rules continue to apply. A discussion around closure and a move to remote learning is only now considered if staffing levels are too low.

**\*UPDATE\*** MD has received the following directly after the meeting - Public Health asks all to be reminded that "*whatever the variant, it's more important than ever that everyone follows public*

*health advice to slow the spread of infection and keep each other safe. Please get vaccinated as soon as you are invited, wear a face covering in crowded or enclosed places, and crucially if you have any symptoms you must isolate immediately and get a PCR test. Ahead of social events and meeting people, take a lateral flow test, and meet outdoors if possible or open a window to let fresh air in”.*

You will be aware of the recent changes to national guidance including the requirement to wear face coverings in communal education settings and for all close contacts of suspected and confirmed cases of the Omicron variant to self-isolate irrespective of age and vaccination status.

MD has also updated the Risk Assessment in this respect, which can be found by clicking [here](#).

### **Forest School**

Comment: *will there be a Forest School After School Club from January, as Year 1 will have finished their sessions?*

Response: the Forest School sessions have been fantastic – Reception will now have Forest School on a weekly basis; letter to follow next week, and Year 2 will have their sessions in Spring 2. Miss Bower will also continue to offer weekly Outdoor Learning sessions to every class on a weekly basis.

**\*Update\*** We were hoping to begin a Forest School After School Club; however, our Forest School Teacher needs to re-organise her own childcare arrangements and therefore has asked to start the club in Spring 2, unless she can get something in place by January 2022.

### **Children’s Parade**

Comment: *a parent had mentioned that the application for the Children’s Parade was open; wondered whether this was something the school was involved in?*

Response: yes, we love a Children’s Parade. We took part in the virtual event last year. Miss Ingram attended the virtual launch recently and the staff team have been invited to begin to plan our entry. The title of this year’s parade is ‘Rebuilding and Hope’ and we are in the central section, ‘Rebuilding our Communities’.

We hope to be able to participate in more community events this academic year too, including ‘Dance at the Dome’!

### **Home Learning**

Comment: *what is the requirement for homework in Year 1?*

Response: 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 homework 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, acknowledging the varying circumstances of our families.

We encourage all families to share books and read together. Year Groups will also provide ideas of activities, where relevant, at different times during the school year. There are also our learning apps – Bug Club/Numbots and RealPE at Home, which all children can access. Please let us know if there are any problems.

The Year 1 Team have been putting weekly activities linked to their Learning Journey on Google Classroom for families to access if they like. They have also been sending home weekly Common Exception Words for children to learn.

In Year 2, the children have a Home Learning Book with a Home Learning Grid linked to their Learning Journey. 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. There was really positive feedback from one of the Year 2 reps about the Home Learning Grid.

MD said she would be revising the school's Home Learning Policy, to detail the school's approach to Homework and some 'top tips' for supporting your child at home.

### **Christmas Show**

Comment: *is the plan to send home a recording of the children's shows?*

Response: text from Newsletter last week:

Unfortunately, we will be unable to invite you into school for Christmas Productions this year. There has also been so much absence recently, children and staff, that we have also reconsidered what we can realistically manage in the next couple of weeks. We also want to ensure the children have a magical end to Autumn Term, and spending time in the Hall rehearsing is probably not the most actively engaging experience! Instead, all classes have been learning some fantastic festive songs to sing. These will be recorded and sent home securely to everyone to enjoy. More information coming soon...

### **Classes Mixing Up**

Comment: *are there any plans to mix the class before they move to their next Year Group, as has been done in the past?*

Response: we do not have a set policy on this and the decision of whether to re-group the classes is made on an annual basis, normally in the Spring Term. We are innately aware that the decision to re-group classes receives a mixed reaction from families and only make the decision to do so when we believe it to be in the best educational interests of all the children.

### **Outdoor Provision in Reception**

Comment: *do children have access to the outdoors during the school day, as some children are saying they do not go outside, except for Multi-Sports?*

Response: there is continuous provision from the inside out in Reception! All children are able to access the outdoors all day, every day, unless they are engaged in whole class teaching sessions, e.g. Book Browse, Phonics, and Handwriting.

### **Caterlink**

Comment: *some children with allergies do not have a letter from a GP and therefore Caterlink will not provide the child with a Special Menu. Is there anything that can be done?*

Response: since the introduction of Natasha's Law: allergen and food labelling requirements, we have a legal duty to ensure we are compliant with the School's Standards. Caterlink have to receive a referral form, completed in full, from the family. The form must be supported by a regulated healthcare professional (GP; School Nurse; Speech and Language Therapist or Dietitian), ensuring that the information on the form is accurate, to prevent any problems occurring with respect to interpretation and/or health and safety. They cannot process referrals from Nutritionists or Nutritional Therapists. Any Special Menu meals have to be prepared and served separately, and the point of service overseen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). If any families have any questions, please get in contact with Caterlink directly: [admin@caterlinkltd.co.uk](mailto:admin@caterlinkltd.co.uk).

### **Year 1 Trips**

Comment: *are there more scheduled school trips for Year 1 this year (the kids enjoyed yesterday so much!)*

Response: Year Groups are currently planning the enrichment activities for this academic year. It has been more challenging to plan, as not all venues or visitors, are offering School Trips or Visits currently due to Covid. The trip to the Royal Pavilion was a challenge to plan with the venue; however, we are delighted it was able to go ahead successfully. More information about forthcoming Visits/Trips/Visitors, will be communicated by respective Year Groups.

MD thanked the reps for attending the meeting. The Meeting ended at 9:45am.