

## **Stanford Infant School**

### **Minutes of Class Representatives Virtual Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 @ 9:15am**

#### **Attendees:**

Madeleine Denyer (MD), Gabbi Naylor (Palace Class); Georgina Marsh, Annie Parsons (Lagoon Class); Esther Shepherd (Marina Class); Kirsty Hewitt, Alice Burdis-Ingall (Pavilion Class); Jade Doutre, Natasha Robinson (Regent Class), Suzie Jespersen, Jessica Penney (Ocean Class).

**Apologies:** Kerry Wallis (Dolphin Class).

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

**Matters Arising** - there were no matters arising.

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

##### **Toys from Home**

Comment: *could you confirm the rules about bringing toys into school please. We have always been quite hard lined with our child about not bringing things in but they have been upset a few days because friends are bringing things in.*

Response: we strongly discourage children from bringing toys to school, as they can so easily get lost or broken and so we would rather not take responsibility for them and avoid the obvious upset that this will cause. Occasionally the children may be asked to bring things in from home as part of their Learning Journey. The only time children may bring something in from home is with agreement from the teacher, if it is a transitional object to support any wellbeing issues. However, the general line is that home toys should stay at home – thank you for your co-operation.

##### **French**

Comment: *are they going to start French again?*

Response: there are no plans to re-start French currently. Learning a language is not part of the Early Years or Key Stage 1 Curriculum and the children are gaining so much more from the outdoor learning opportunities on offer. We continue to celebrate and promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism.

##### **Changing of Home Reading Books**

Comment: *how are the children encouraged to swap books? Several children coming home with the same book for weeks?*

Response: this is detailed in the FAQ document; however, in essence, all children are encouraged to change their books on a daily basis as part of their Book Browse and Reading Workshop sessions – if individual children are not doing so, please speak to your child's teacher.

##### **Children's Mental Health Week**

Comment: *how is the school celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and are there any resources that can be shared with families.*

Response: our PSHE curriculum this term has focused on mental health and wellbeing – please see previous Newsletters for more information. The children have been thinking about how they can look after their minds as well as their bodies. The theme for Children's Mental Health Week is 'Growth', which complements our Growth Mindset approach. Miss Remnant has uploaded some stories and an information pack, 'Myhappymind', for families to access on Google Classroom if they wish.

## **Water Bottles**

Comment: *some children do not appear to be drinking much during the school day – often water bottles are going home full and they have not been re-filled.*

Response: this is also part of the FAQ document; however, MD will remind all teachers to encourage the children to drink their water regularly in order to rehydrate their brains.

## **Rucksacks**

Comment: *whilst the families understand that cloakroom space is tight, some families are struggling to carry all the children's belongings, if they need a karate kit, etc. for an after-school club, or where to store their lunch boxes.*

Response: lunchboxes should be carried in separately, as they are stored in a class tub. If a child needs a specific resource for a club they attend after school, then these can be brought in. We were finding that rucksacks were being used to carry Book Bags, or empty, lying on the floor!

## **Book Bags**

Comment: *there is some frustration with the current Book Bags, as they open really easily, and belongings fall out easily en-route to and from home.*

Response: will happily look into another supplier, to see if there are any better options available.

## **World Book Day**

Comment: *is the school doing dress up for World Book Day, we know it is not until March but great to get it in the diary.*

Response: yes, this has been detailed in the diary dates that were circulated home at the beginning of the academic year and are updated fortnightly with the School Newsletter. The theme this year is 'You are a Reader', which fully supports our aim to foster a lifelong love of reading. We will be inviting the children to dress-up as their favourite book character; however, please do not buy anything special for this. More information to follow after half term.

## **Home Learning in Year 1**

Comment: *can the school provide guidance on extra work/optional activities to support the work the children are doing at school.*

Response: 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.

## **Home Learning Year 2**

Comment: *is it possible to schedule a reminder for when the Year 2 Home Learning books are needed (appreciate the date is on the sheet; however, would welcome a Ping).*

Response: will happily schedule a reminder – MD will speak to Miss Whittington and ask her to schedule this.

## **Transition to Stanford Junior School**

Comment: *what are the transition arrangements for moving on to Stanford Junior School?*

Response: many opportunities will be planned, including visits to the Junior School, attending assemblies, going for a morning, including having lunch, buddies, etc. A comprehensive transition programme will be developed between the Infants and Juniors and this will be circulated home to

Year 2 families at the end of Spring 2/beginning of Summer 1.

The reps in attendance, who have had an older sibling transition to the Juniors, commented very positively on the transition arrangements, even those who had transitioned in the midst of the pandemic!

### **After School Clubs**

Comment: *is it possible to have another club on a Monday, in addition to Gymnastics?*

Response: yes, we will happily look into it. MD asked if a club had been suggested; however, it had not.

### **Toilets**

Comment: *are children in Reception able to go to the toilet when they need to go, or do they need to wait for specific times?*

Response: children use the Makaton sign for toilet, and can go whenever they need to go, there is no set time.



### **Hand Sanitiser**

Comment: *has the hand sanitiser the school uses changed, as some children's hands appear sore again?*

Response: no, it has not been changed, and we had not been aware of any problems. The one we were using appeared to be much kinder to all hands. Will monitor.

### **Timetable**

Comment: *would it be possible to have a timetable for the school day?*

Response: MD explained that we have a creative approach to the school day and therefore there are only certain aspects that are at the same time daily/weekly, e.g., Book Browse/Reading Workshop, Handwriting, etc. The reps said they did not need the detail but it would be useful to have an outline of the school day timings, e.g., lunchtime, etc. MD said this would be possible and will action.

### **Covid**

Comment: *just wondered whether the restrictions in place at school will continue, as know they were going to be reviewed after half term; however, given the Government announcement this week, what might everything look like?*

Response: many families have had conversations with MD in the last couple of days – we will be reviewing current measures in line with guidance received from the LA and Public Health. This is likely to be received over half term. It is hoped that we will be able to relax measures; however, we will still inform families where there has been a positive case, as it is important that everyone has the information needed to make informed decisions based on their own personal circumstances.

### **Forest School**

Comment: *has the school noticed a difference in terms of the children's social skills?*

Response: Yes! The children are collaborating better, which in turn is improving their social and emotional development. They are developing their creativity, problem-solving, independence, confidence and more. It was well worth the hard work, wait and perseverance! Huge thanks must go to Miss Bower and Mrs Frier for their passion, sense of fun and determination.

Finally, thanks were expressed for the **Year 2 Film Night** – the children had a great time. We are really pleased to be able to re-establish these events and are looking forward to Reception's Film Night on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Praise was also shared for the school's continual navigation of the covid situation.

### **Other Items on the Agenda:**

#### **New Starters**

MD explained that she has been considering how we can improve the welcome families receive when they are new to the school midway through the academic year. The reps suggested they could be introduced to the new family and make sure they are included in any class correspondence. This will be actioned.

#### **Parent Helpers**

Parents/Carers are interested in volunteering again and the school would very much welcome this support. MD will send out some roles we would welcome support for. In the meantime, here are some volunteering roles we would welcome:

- ✓ Forest School/Outdoor Learning, including developing the area!
- ✓ City of Meadows support – see Newsletter and more info to follow soon.
- ✓ Reading with the children.
- ✓ Support in the School Library – we would welcome a resident librarian.
- ✓ STEM support in Science Week – can you smash a stereotype?

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the above, please let the School Office know. Thank you.

MD thanked the reps for attending the meeting. The Meeting ended at 9:50am.

Date of Next Meeting: **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March @ 9:15am**