

Parents' Forum meetings - minutes

Date of meeting	21 st January 2016
Time and location of meeting	9.00 am in staffroom
Person taking the minutes	Frances Davis
People present	Mrs Haacke (LB) Mrs Purdy (BF & HB) Mrs Shaw (BF & HB) Mrs Gerrish (DF) Mrs McInally (GH)

Minutes of the meeting

1. Lunchtime Play

Positive feedback on the opportunity for children to come into Dragonflies for some indoor lunchtime activities, ie art work, lego. It is not a "club" that parents sign their child up to, but the all the children know they can have some time indoors doing different activities rather than always having to be outdoors. We will look at the activities to ensure they match boys and girls interests. Mrs Davis explained that the children can also play in the small courtyard with the blue imagination play equipment or sit at the bench there (in the drier weather); children can play with the different equipment in the covered walk way and they have the playground to play in as well. We now have a play leader every day.

2. Lunches at Lunchtime

Feedback on the lunches was that they are good, warmer and overall better food.

Requests and comments from parents were:

- Separate broccoli & cabbage – not liked in medley
- Can there be more crudities, as they are very popular and children eat them whilst they are waiting for their lunch.
- Main courses for the bigger children need to be bigger
- The kitchen has recently introduced a choice in dessert, either the published dessert or yogurt / cheese & biscuits. At our MDS meetings and at this parents' forum there is a mixed response to it and enjoyment of it. This is closely being monitored in school because we may have to go back to only having one dessert and not having a choice if children are not happy with having a choice of desserts.
- Mrs Davis confirmed overall the kitchen does follow the meal plan however the kitchen and our MDS do monitor the enjoyment of the food and adjust accordingly, for example salmon fish fingers are not popular so we serve cod fish fingers.
- The perception from some parents and children is that the desserts are too big and too sweet. However SCL are keen to reinforce that they menu plan over the day and over the week to ensure all the strict nutritional guidelines on what children can eat are exactly followed. Many of the desserts are made from fruit but the fruit is "hidden" in the dessert.
- The area manager from SCS confirmed that they strictly adhere to the National Nutritional Standards to have a 50/50 ratio of fresh fruit contained daily in the dessert offer.
- SCS are looking into reducing the size of the desserts and then ploughing back into the main course the savings made from the smaller desserts. This is being trialled in other schools before a decision is made. The response from other schools has been to keep to the original dessert size. We are going to keep with the smaller size and plough the saved money into more crudités.

On 26.01.16 we had our termly meeting between school and Surrey Commercial Services (SCS) and the points above were addressed:

Puddings

After half term, we are actually going to change to plates and bowls. The MDS will carry on serving the main course to the children who are seated at their place at the table. Then for desserts (hot and cold) SCS staff will come round with the trolley to offer the choice of puddings, which is the published dessert or fresh fruit or yogurt/cheese and biscuits. This means children are able to choose one dessert from a choice

of three.

Change to fresh pieces of fruit from tinned fruit salad

We will have the smaller portion of puddings (the tray is cut into 45 portions rather than 32 portions) and this then means there will be more crudités. Children who first sit down will be reminded by teachers and MDS not to eat all the crudités, so to teach mindfulness.

Menu

The menu is followed apart from we have cod fish fingers instead of salmon fish fingers and the changes agreed at this meeting. There will be a new menu after Easter.

Increased portion?

Should we increase the portion size children are eating? There is the facility to increase the portion of carbohydrates served, however looking at waste there is a lot of carbohydrates and protein going in the bin. MDS to monitor the wastage of year 2 children in particular because they are our biggest children to see if they do eat all their dinner and potentially could need more. This will be brought up at our next meeting

Change of vegetables

Only farmhouse medley which is served once a week has the mixture of cauliflower, broccoli and carrots. However because cabbage not popular it will be replaced with peas.

This will also be the case for cauliflower which will be replaced with carrots.

3. The 8.45am drop off.

Some parents are feeling, although their child is on time and on the carpet at 8.55am for registration, that their child is late. The teachers will reassure children that the register is not taken until 8.55am. The children may be on the carpet but they are quietly talking and socialising. School doesn't start until 8.55am.

School always has started at 8.55am and school understands that it can be hard for parents who have to do the double run.

4. Read Write Inc positives:

- Handwriting is getting easier to form and read.
- Recognising capital letters and full stops in reading and writing.

5. Homework

Mrs Davis explained that currently the homework policy is being reviewed and that teachers at staff meeting that night will be talking about homework so that school can set up a system that works smoothly in supporting children to learn at home with activities that parents can slot into home life.

Potential resources include:

- The phonic sounds &/or phonic set published.
- Weekly plans on the website
- Recommended internet resources needed

Parents have at home the assessment booklet (Reception, year 1 and year 2 which explains the curriculum and in the Reception booklet it goes into detail about how parents can support their child's learning at home), the half termly parent curriculum information letter that goes out, the half term holiday homework activity and the medium term planning is on the school website.

There were positive comments from Year 2 parents on the current maths & common exception words homework that has gone home.

6. Pantomime

It is lovely that school, funded by the PTA, puts on a pantomime especially as the cost to attend a panto can get quite expensive. Teachers and staff are always mindful that there will be a very small number of children who don't like some parts of the panto. The children are always immediately comforted and either remain in the hall sitting close to an adult or are taken out and will do

something in the class with an adult.

7. PTA newsletter
Feedback on how good the recent PTA newsletter was & parents thought the choices on what to spend were good.
8. MUGA
To confirm the MUGA deadline is Easter 2016
9. Next meeting: Wednesday 10th February, 9.00- 9.30am in the staff room.