

Parents' Forum meetings - minutes

Date of meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Time and location of meeting	9am – staff room
Person taking the minutes	Mrs Davis
People present	Mrs Baker-Hedge (TUR) Mrs Ebbutt (GH) Mrs Croft (BF) Mrs Hamaker (HB)

Apologies received from Mrs Johns, Dragonflies class reps, Honeybees class reps and Ladybirds class reps.

One parent commented that our school website was not up to date and some of the photographs of children appeared to be quite old. When was this likely to be updated? Mrs Davis stated that we would look at updating the photographs. The website does have all of the current policies and the statutory documents are updated annually in line with the Government's deadlines. The website was overhauled and redesigned last academic year. The Parish Post has all of the recent and relevant information on it. The computer leader is looking at the website this year and has made a start on deleting old documents / pages and updating it. We make every effort to maintain the website and will commission some photos to be taken.

Another parent enquired as to whether a decision had been made whether there would be a reduction in the breakfast club charge for Year 3 parents of children at Dovers Green and Holmesdale schools from £2 to £1. Mrs Davis said that she would review this situation with the Governors but any reduction agreed would be applied for all children not just those at specific schools.

A parent enquired whether we would be introducing an online parents evening booking system or text notification system. Mrs Davis and Mrs Clark confirmed that we would be introducing the parents' evening online booking system from September 2017 and in the summer term we are introducing online payments for trips and residential visits. This bolts onto the system we have for parents to pay online for their school dinners.

Another parent asked on behalf of a parent in Reception class, why had the Butterflies and Ladybirds children not walked to the park on Monday with the rest of the school. She also stated that many parents were happy that the children hadn't walked and that they had done a considerable amount of art work instead. Mrs Davis said that the decision was made for those children to not walk down to the park because they are our youngest and they would be out in the park for the whole of the morning and having had to walk there and back. On balance, school felt their time would be better spent in their classroom and outside area doing their different art activities and that walking to the park was something the older children did.

One parent commented that Breakfast club was now much busier and were there any plans to cap the number of children who use it, divide the year groups up or run a pre-booking system, although she does appreciate that it is beneficial to be able to drop in on an ad hoc basis. Mrs Davis said that we would look at how the club would run in the future with more children but we were unlikely to separate the club between two halls.

Mrs Ebbutt asked about the Abacus homework and whether the teachers monitored the work. Mrs Davis confirmed that teachers did check the homework and children were expected to complete all homework set (maths, reading, spellings, timetables, topic).

A class rep arrived for a 2.30 parent's forum meeting. As she had missed this morning's meeting

we have noted the points she had wanted to raise.

1. Food for the Christmas party. There was concern from the parents that the donated food had not been refrigerated and that had led to the sickness bug over Christmas. It was explained that all the food was shared between the normal dinner sittings so if it was food poisoning then all the children would have been affected. Also other schools and the Education Welfare Officer commented that they had a lot of children off with a sickness bug at this time. School also said that as the parents had been so generous and donated so much food, next year we would just ask for donations of crisps to supplement the party food the kitchen was preparing.
2. Parents evening electronic system. School confirmed this had been raised and would be introduced in September. It was explained that the paper list is put out to allow breakfast club parents to sign up or they could ask a friend to sign up for them.
3. When the parents helped with the walk to the park on Monday the children were changing their shoes in the cloakroom. Parents felt that this room was too small for getting changed in and asked if there were plans to make the cloakroom bigger. School said that the children only used the cloakroom for hanging up their bags and not for getting changed in, this was done in the classroom. There are no plans to make the cloakrooms bigger.