

## Parent Partnership Meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 8:30am – 9:30am

Attendees School staff- Miss Kelly, Mrs Ainger, Mrs Whatley, Mrs Evans, Mrs Isacc, Mrs Van Den Abbeele

REPS – Migella; Nursery, Mirella; Reception, Hannah Y1, Emma & Eve Y2, Paula Y3, Karen Y4, Donatella Y5, Marissa, Elena Y6

### 1. Reading week and World Book Day 3<sup>rd</sup> June

As previously explained in the Newsletter, due to a clash with Science Week, the school would be celebrating World Book Day at a later day. The school is preparing a Reading Week and World Book Day to celebrate books and encourage the love of reading the week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Details are still being finalised but will soon be shared and may possibly include opportunities for parents to come in and discuss/demonstrate the importance of reading in their jobs/share books from their childhood. More details to follow.

### 2. Parents Questionnaire Y2-Y6

Apologies were given by Miss Kelly as she thought the results had already been published from the Parents Questionnaire. These will be made available asap, probably in the next newsletter and posted on the school website. A large number of parents completed the questionnaire (300+) with some very positive results and fantastic comments added too. 100% agreed that their child was happy at St. Catherine's, which we are all very proud of!

### 3. Dance Festival 2019

Positive feedback was shared from several of the parents and children who took part in this year's Dance Festival. Everyone enjoyed the unpressured and uncompetitive nature of this event. Evidently a lot of hard work had gone into the stunning performance.

The selection process for this event was discussed and it was emphasised that it was opened to mixed ability dancers and that it is very useful to include a handful of children who had experienced the Dance Festival before. A lot of consideration is taken into ensuring children are picked who may not have had a chance to represent St Catherine's at other events before. The mix of experienced and novice children does give a good balance, with the experienced children helping to bring a more relaxed approach to the performances.

### 4. Mobile Phones

Due to a recent incident in Year 6, Miss Kelly sent out the school Mobile Phone policy to all Y5 and Y6 parents via email as a reminder that the only phones allowed are without camera and internet access and must be handed into the office before registration. The policy can also be found on the school web site under School < School Policies. It was noted that the policy should be shared more often and Miss Kelly will ensure it is covered in Impact Meetings for Year 5 and Year 6 going forward.

It was also confirmed that children's book bags are never searched and Mrs Isaacs explained during an assembly for the older children that certain secondary schools do not allow mobiles and spot checks may be carried out in those schools. However she emphasised this is not a process which takes place at St. Catherine's.

### 5. Arts Hub & Caretaker's House

The PTA continue with their fund raising for the Arts Hub and the Chair of Governors is due to publish an update shortly.

Talks continue in regards to how to make the best use of the Caretaker's House and an application has been made to the Diocese for a refurbishment. The idea is to transform it into a space that could be used for meetings rooms for children's group work, or meetings with CAMHS, social services, etc. More news will be communicated as updates take place.

## **6. Debt Management Policy**

As school funding has been cut by Government, a change has been made so that the school can continue to chase outstanding money via the Small Claims Court. This allows the school to chase outstanding money for up to 6 years, instead of using Debt Collectors. This should help towards gaps in payments as Miss Kelly explained that currently the school has to take money from elsewhere to pay for the caterers if parents/carers are not up to date with their school lunch money payments. It is important for parents to keep their school lunch payments, after school club and breakfast club payments up to date, as every penny quickly adds up; if 300 families all owe £1 that's already £300 the school is in debt.

## **7. School Walking buses & Buddies for Independent Travellers**

Parents have asked if the school could organise any walking buses/points for children to meet to walk to school together in the mornings, or for independent travellers to meet up. These are all good ideas but would need to be organised between parents. For various reasons the school cannot take responsibility in providing this service, but welcome parents to arrange this between themselves.

## **8. Family Learning Afternoon Fri 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Save the date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July for a Family Learning Afternoon. This will be an opportunity for parents to bring along a picnic to have lunch with their children and then get involved with learning activities happening within the children's classrooms. The emphasis will be on learning together as a family; more information to follow.

## **9. PTA Events**

Mothers' Day Sale taking place after school 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March

Summer Fayre 18<sup>th</sup> May – all estate agent boards already taken and advertising is due to go up next week.

Peter Rabbit Movie night 4<sup>th</sup> April – 100 children already booked in. Cut-off date to be set for this Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March as the PTA will not be able to accommodate for late comers/last minutes add-ons. Children will view the movie straight after school so a register with all the children's name will be prepared. Parents asked why reception children were not included and it was explained that the children needed to sit quietly in the hall to watch the movie and this would be quite a task for the majority of reception children, especially after a day at school, as there is to be no talking/walking about. The idea is to have an atmosphere similar as when you watch a movie at the cinema.

## **AOB**

- Enquiry if further investment will be made for extra scooter parking as it looks overcrowded. Mrs Whatley explained unfortunately not. The current scooter parking was originally funded from funds from the Government but they have cut costs now. It was expensive as foundations had to be laid for parking spaces.
- Mrs Whatley is trying to organise more sports activities for the children to try during a Sports Week in the Summer term. She mentioned if there would be any interest in things like a sports club before school at 8am, eg. a fencing club. We agreed there would be an interest and a Parent Rep asked if the combination of breakfast could be provided or if the breakfast club could offer sports tasters too, especially in the summer months as the weather improves. These are all ideas that Mrs Whatley will continue to look into.

**Next Parent Partnership Meeting Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 8:30am**

*Notes prepared by Elena Wigernas GC rep*