

Parent Partnership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 25th November 2020

1.0 Welcome.

2.0 After School Club

There was a request for a new time for after school pick up. It is not possible to accommodate this due to current staffing levels. It would mean that whilst a member(s) of staff walked children to their allocated gates, the rest of the children would not be fully supervised and that is not acceptable. The existing two pick up times are in place to ensure safety in these challenging times.

3.0 Packed lunch policy

On the school website there is comprehensive guidance of what should go into packed lunches based on government recommendations. This can be found at <https://st-catherines.barnet.sch.uk/parents/school-lunches/>. For example baked goods are preferred to fried goods and it would be OK for a child to have a treat once a week in their packed lunch box, just as children with school dinners may get a biscuit or a small scoop of ice cream each week -but not daily.

4.0 Mystery Story Teller

The school is keen to support this lovely tradition in a virtual way for Reception to Yr3. They are investigating ways to upload story videos from parents. Reception can use Tapestry but for Yrs 1-3, another solution must be found as Tapestry is no longer used after the first term of Yr1. Miss Whatley is writing up guidance to share soon for using WeTransfer <https://wetransfer.com/> which seems to be a relatively easy way to upload from devices.

5.0 Christmas Cards

A few parents enquired what the policy would be for children writing cards to their classmates this year. With additional items being brought into school and additional items going home from school it was felt that this year, being mindful not to spread the virus it would be an unnecessary risk. However please encourage your child/children to write/make one card for the whole class which they can put in a class display for all to see.

6.0 School Photographer

Class photos were cancelled this year due to the risk it would pose to the photographer and his family - one of whom is shielding. It is hoped in the New Year when the situation improves that he will be back to take them then. We

have used this photographer for many years at reasonable prices and a change in photographer at this stage may incur higher costs so school will stick with him.

7.0 Teacher Collections

Thank you so much for enquiring about this, it is really appreciated. The class teacher can come to the school gate on the last day of term and end of year gifts can be passed via the school rep. Any collections/gifts for the After School Club staff can be given to the School Office for distribution.

8.0 Mrs Ainger's retirement

Mrs Ainger was a much loved staff member and is still in regular contact with the school. We have not been able to celebrate her contribution to her school in the way we would like yet because of COVID as it wouldn't be the celebration she deserves but we do hope in the New Year to gather as a community and when it is safe for all parties to do so. IN fact, Mrs Ainger sent the school a present last week which Miss Kelly opened in Zoom school assembly. The present was a beautiful Nativity scene which will go on display in the school. Some children then wrote thank you emails to her.

9.0. School Nurse talk for Yrs 5 & 6

There will be Hygiene and Body talks for Yrs 5 & 6 in the coming weeks - 3rd and 7th December. The current Yr6 missed out on this because of lockdown so they are not missing out now and there will be further talks in the Spring term.

10.0 Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to so many for filling it out, there were over 100 anonymous responses. We welcome the honest and respectful feedback and the results will be added to the website/newsletter in the coming weeks.

11.0 Handbook

Class Reps should all have received a digital copy of the Parent Partnership Handbook. Thank you so much for following the procedures. Your help and support so far this year has been greatly appreciated.

12.0 Christmas Services

As you will have seen from the newsletter, there is no Nativity this year but the school is delighted to be able to bring you class Christmas services via Purple Mash. Please do check into Purple Mash regularly to see what your child has been up to - a number of children were unaware their Black History Month class videos from October were able to be viewed there.

13.0 PTA News

It's been a challenging year for fundraising without the highlight of our calendar, the Christmas Fayre happening this year but a number of initiatives were

launched that have done well and we greatly appreciate the support from all the parents. The personalised Christmas cards event raised over £600 and it looks like the personalised tea towels has raised over £900 also. Nearly £100 was raised from the Christmas trees event and the October Bonus ball raised £340.

The PTA's aim is not only to fundraise but to support and foster our school community so they ran a free Zoom Quiz around Halloween to help newer parents get to know each other and as always, if any families struggling at this time need help with uniform then we have a large stockpile that we can donate to those in need.

14.0 AOB

- A parent asked about the sight and hearing tests for Yr1 that were cancelled in November due to lockdown. They are in the process of being rescheduled. More details will be provided when available.
- A home clothes day was suggested for the children in the New Year to help fundraise for the school. £1/child. This cannot be run in December as was initially hoped as there will be a Christmas Jumper Day on 11th December where children are asked to wear something festive and donate £1 to Save the Children.
- It should be noted when school gates close, the class will be registered 5minutes after the close time. For example if the gate closes at 9am, the register will be called at 9.05am. Miss Kelly is impressed with how smoothly it is running so far and wanted to add that it will be taken into consideration where families have multiple children to be dropped at multiple gates and not unduly penalised in this instance.
- Parents wanted to congratulate the school on their handling of the COVID precautions so far in particularly difficult circumstances with changing guidelines and so many various needs of the children in the school.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th January 2021