

Parent Rep Meeting Wednesday 19th January 2022

Attendance

Ms Kelly
Mrs Whately
Mrs Evans
Serena – Year 5
Darnica – Reception
Fiona Winters – Year 2
Katie E – Year 6
Lynne – Year 1
Rubi – Nursery
Donna Holland – Year 4
Ailish – Year 2
Lucy – Year Reception

Opening prayer & greeting

Agenda

1. Impact of Covid on the school
2. Nativities
3. Trips
4. Ms Ainger Collection & message book
5. Arts Hub
6. PE Lesson
7. Windows & Doors
8. Mass
9. Year 2 Provision
10. Ofsted
11. Timetables Rockstars
12. ICT
13. PTA
14. AOB

1. impact of Covid on the school

At the moment we have a lot of staff members down with covid, some showing very mild symptoms and some really suffering with low energy, ear infections, chest infections and extreme fatigue which is also effecting their return to school.

We are trying our best to cover within the school, this may mean if pupil interventions aren't taking place at the moment this is not because we don't want this to happen, we will have tried everything we can to continue to run these interventions but at present with staff shortages we are trying our best to cause least disruption to the pupils.

Please be patient as we are trying everything so we don't have to shut year groups down as a result.

The office staff all had covid in the first week of January so please bare with us re messages and emails. We will get them.

2. Nativities

This was our 1st time using this company, how was it ?

Feedback given – much better quality than in the past. A number of years found that the camera didn't always pan out to the ends of the rows – missing children etc – This will be mentioned to the camera crew to ensure the whole class is seen.

Parents enjoyed the flash drive / DVD combo especially if they had a number of children in the school.

3. Trips

Year 4 & 6 – have residential trips

Year 5 – We are introducing a new trip where we will be taking them into London to the West End to see a musical – this year we have secured Lion King tickets @ a cost of £25. We hope this trip runs annually

Year 5 – We have also applied for tickets to visit parliament - tickets have just been released (as they had stopped the trips due to covid) as this is an application process we are waiting to hear if we have been successful this year. Again we would like to make this an annual event.

Year 6 – Visited the Natural History Museum last week.

Year 3 – Have a museum trip upcoming – letters will be sent out to parents

Magic & Musical trips – Many venues across London are hosting free events for school children we have applied and are awaiting a response

We want to get trips back up and running taking full advantage of the tube on our doorstep.

4. Ms Ainger

Ms Ainger was an integral part of our school community for over 35 years. Due to covid and lockdowns we weren't able to give Ms Ainger the send off she deserved.

We have a collection set up at present – please circulate to classes and also to members of the school community who have left who may want to contribute.

A memory book will be available in the playground before and after school for people to sign, leave messages of memories and thanks.

5. Arts Hub

The official opening is Thursday 3rd February – the Cardinal is coming to complete the ceremony followed by a mass with invited special guests.

Friday 4th February the Arts Hub will be open from 08:30am onwards for a coffee morning for all parents to come and see the new venue and have a biscuit.

Entertainers have been booked all day for the children. Throughout the day the children will take turns in their year groups to come and see the venue whilst enjoying the entertainer & some cake.

On this day we ask all children to help us celebrate by wearing blue and yellow to represent the school.

Although we are having our opening on 3rd & 4th the hub will not be fully operational for the after school club for a few more weeks. This is due to some outstanding works which will allow the safe entry & dismissal to after school club. The car park is yet to be complete along with the safety gate with new intercom system as well as the kitchen. So please bare with us for a few more weeks. As soon as it is fully operational we will move the after school club in there.

6. PE Lessons

Please note uniform policy for lessons, when pupils are in the hall doing gymnastics it is important for safety when using the equipment they are in the correct uniform which is their PE t shirt and shorts. No hoodies, tracksuit bottoms or socks & trainers. Of course these can be wore for the rest of the school day but during their lesson they must be removed. We have had the PE specialist from the borough in to check that we are using our equipment correctly and safety and she is very happy.

Outdoor PE lessons – again uniform policy – no outer coats to be worn during PE – please note staff access the situation daily outside and in extreme cold they will advise the pupils on whether they wear an outer coat. But on the whole the pupils are moving and constantly active ensuring they are warm and getting their hearts pumping. As obesity has risen significantly due to lockdowns its important all pupils are taking part in lessons with great enthusiasm.

7. Windows & Doors open in classrooms

Please note if a child is sitting in a classroom and is cold they can ask the teacher to close the window or the door. It is not the policy that they remain open at all costs. It is important classrooms are well ventilated and we ensure this by keeping windows and doors open during break and lunch time in key stage 2 classrooms closing them on their return. Nursery and reception doors and windows are shut during lunch to allow the classrooms to warm up.

For reception class – for the last 10 years we have had a free flow environment in reception this allows the child to choose and play where they want, which supports the EYF. If they go outside they are taught to get their coats etc. The doors remain open at all times and have done so pre covid. As the current reception parents weren't allowed to come and visit the classroom they may not have realized this is the nature of the learning environment. Hopefully we will have an opening evening where the parents are allowed to come in to see their learning environment first hand.

8. Mass

Thank you to the year 5 children for being amazing during mass on Tuesday, especially with the interruption for them attending mass over the past year or so. Thank you to everyone who came.

9. Year 2 Provision

Please continue to spread the word about our year 2 provision we are now on twitter and facebook please like us!

Our nursery intake is booming which is fantastic and has been consistently good over the years allowing us to get a steady budget. This allows us to put provisions in place, for example having a learning mentor and a sports coach 5 days a week.

With the help of everyone spreading the word we can increase our year 2 uptake and continue to be high in demand for nursery and reception allowing us to continue providing all these wonderful things.

10. Ofsted

Ofsted are due on the horizon. We currently hold an outstanding grade. After attending a headteacher conference and looking at figures from the past year it would be hard to maintain this grade.

But it is important to stress that the grading has become stricter meaning a grade of an outstanding is extremely hard with the events in recent years and a good is a lot harder to receive and is seen as very successful if received.

We are doing really well at St Catherine's & will continue to do so.

11. ICT

We sent out log in details for Microsoft 365 before Christmas – this was in case we were put into national lockdown again.

Please keep the log in's safe – they will be used if a year group has to be closed so we can continue to learn online.

Nursery and reception you would use tapestry in this event.

12. Timetable Rockstars

We have purchased timetable rockstars – this is mainly for Year 2-6. But is available for all year groups if you want to access this

resource at home. Guidance and instructions will be sent out. In class the resource will be used to add games where houses can compete against each other etc

13. PTA

Fruit stall – before Christmas we spoke about each year group having a fruit stall in the playground selling fruit. The fruit would need to be donated by the parents in the year group to increase the funds raised. – these will start soon

Year 4 – have a movie night organized and its in the diary

Other year groups need to orgainse there class fundraising & let the PTA know- please note this isn't for the parent rep to organize – it's a class event please speak with your rep

14. AOB

Year 5 & 6 Netball club starting after half term – Miss Burke will run

Mrs Evans – does anyone have any embroidery thread, needles, wool or material they can donate to the school?

Reception – raised issue with the dark playground one night after pick up (movie night) could we get lights?- as this was a temporary measure for dismissal whilst the arts hub is being complete lights at this stage isn't necessary but this item will be revisited once the arts hub is up and running.

After school clubs selection – please ensure this is not done on a first come first served basis. When parents sign up we look at what their child is already doing and how often they take part to try and ensure all children get the opportunity – the after schools clubs are a stepping stone into community club.

Reception – can we provide a variety of fruit for the pupils to share and experience?

Fruit is provided but we just have one choice out each day, this is to encourage the child to try that bit of fruit. Also the staff in both reception and nursery have been bringing in a wide variety of fruit for the children to try and see and feel as well as broadening their vocabulary

Diverse Books for the library & Speech & language software - donations discussed in the last meeting – The Christmas carol event helped raise the money for the books a massive thank you to everyone who contributed.

The speech and language software – this will be featured in the newsletter and a link added to parent pay for parents to contribute.

Staff hardware needs to be updated as laptops old and not working to capacity – details of this fundraiser will follow

Nursery – mystery story teller – due to high covid in cases in staff etc we will not be starting this yet but will revisit this next meeting

Reading volunteers – please see newsletter for more info

After school club – are children forced to go outside? Absolutely not. If they do not want to go then they don't have to. But if there is a staff shortage and after school club is affected it may be the case that everyone goes out for 10 minutes due to supervision issues

Exit time congestion – It was raised could we use different exits again? No this would be a step backwards. Please wear masks, please move into a space when in playground. If you are meeting congestion on arrival please think about adjusting your arrival time.

School Road – Please be safe on the roads – again do not park on a single yellow or across peoples drives