

St Catherine's Parent Representatives Meeting

16th March 2022

Present: Staff: Miss Kelly and Mrs Whatley
Parents: Rubi – Nursery, Danica Hill - RN, Lucy Holland - RG, Fiona Winters - 2F, Ailish Burke - 2W, Donna Holland - year 4, Serena Horgan - 5C

1. Arts Hub

The Arts Hub is being well used for activities including music lessons, tuition, PE and Science Week learning.

School has ordered a new entry system for the gate on Vale Drive leading directly to the Arts Hub. This system is costing over £5,000 which will come out of the school budget. It will have cameras so that staff are able to recognise parents from outside and enable them to safely dismiss the children.

Once the new entry system has been installed, parents will be able to collect their children as and when is convenient rather than at the current two set collection times. Miss Kelly hopes that the new system will be up and running after the Easter holidays.

As Covid restrictions are relaxed and until after school club is up and running from the Arts Hub, a parent asked if it was possible for parents to go into school to collect their children from after school club in the dining hall as was the system pre-covid. Miss Kelly said she would consider this and revert back. But as it stands the 2 times will continue.

New fold away tables have also been ordered for the hub.

2. Times Tables Rock Stars

A reminder that the children in years 2-6 had their log-ins to take home and have also practiced logging in at school. The children have been providing positive feedback on the game and parents are reminded to encourage their children to use it three times a week for at least five minutes a time.

3. Absence follow up

Mrs Martin is grateful to those parents who have emailed the school with reasons for absence. If your child is absent from school, please continue to let her know the reason why.

4. School reports

Full school reports for children in years 1 to 6 will be sent home next Monday.

There will be an open evening during the summer term for parents.

Miss Kelly will consider a request for parents to be able to view their children's workbooks before the open evening, possibly at the beginning of the summer term. She will let parents know a date via the school newsletter.

5. Disco fundraisers

Miss Kelly has had several requests to hold a disco in the school hall. She said that such events are not possible at school with potentially 480 children to look after.

Year 2 parents recently organized their own year group disco at a church hall which worked well and raised money for the PTA.

6. Science Week

Science week is going well so far. Some of the children have enjoyed the planetarium set up in the Arts Hub by the University of Hertfordshire.

7. School meals

Miss Kelly intends to instruct the catering team to put vegetables on children's plates rather than wait for them to ask. She has noticed that many children do not have any vegetables at lunch time. The children will not be forced to eat food they don't want to but school hope that by having a selection of vegetables on their plates, they might eat more.

Miss Kelly is reviewing the offering from the catering company and would like them to stick to the menu advertised and let children know what is available at the beginning of the day, so they are able to choose from a couple of options. She will also ask about the return of the salad bar which was popular with children pre-Covid.

8. School trip volunteers

A check list for school trip volunteers is to be introduced. It will set out risk assessments and expected conduct on the trip and afterwards. Volunteers should inform a member of staff with any areas of concern during the trip or, if that is not possible, report them to the office upon returning to school.

Thank you to the parent volunteers on the recent year 4 trip to the science museum.

Year 2 teachers have planned two trips to make up for those cancelled due to Covid restrictions before Christmas. Letters should be going out shortly.

9. Request for soil and compost

Mrs Grace would be grateful for any bags of soil or compost for use by forest school. They can be left inside the gates to the office.

School have received positive feedback about forest school from the children.

10. Support for Ukraine

School have been guided by the Department for Education in relation to fundraising for Ukraine. The DFE suggested today for schools to show their support. This means that there will no longer be a collection on Friday for Comic Relief. However, if children have already bought red noses, they may take them into school on Friday.

The money raised by children wearing blue and yellow will be sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine appeal. The ParentPay item will remain open for donations until Friday.

School cannot take physical donations but would like to remind parents that they can donate via the DEC website. <https://www.dec.org.uk/>

11. Prayer Services

There are not enough weeks left in the school year for each class to have their own prayer service so the services will be done in year groups. The prayer services will begin after Easter and there will be details in the newsletter.

12. Vale Drive parking / traffic

Parents are reminded to park considerately and not to block driveways and access to houses. There is an unofficial one-way traffic system in place on Vale Drive during drop off / pick up which means that cars should avoid turning into Vale Drive from Mays Lane during these times where possible.

School have tried to contact Barnet Council about the signs/restrictions in place at school drop off / pick up. However, the Council have not responded to school. Parents should feel free to contact the council themselves in order to build some momentum.

13. Playground equipment at the end of the school day

Children are not allowed to play on the MUGA, playground equipment or the grass after school.

14. Lost uniform

Parents can go to the dining hall to look through lost property, please ask a member of staff in the playground before / after school.

Please ensure that uniform is labelled clearly. Now the weather is getting milder the children have started taking off their coats and jumpers at break times and staff have noticed a significant amount of unlabeled clothing.

15. PTA events

Movie night – Thursday 24th March: Please note that tickets for this event are now sold out. If your child does not have a ticket, they will not be able to attend. After school club will operate as normal.

There is a St Patrick's Day coffee morning on Friday 18th March, from 8.45 to 10.30 in the Arts Hub. Raffle tickets for the chance to win a hamper will be on sale.

16. AOB

Uniform - Summer uniform may be worn after Easter. Girls can wear shirt/culottes sets provided they are light blue gingham.

Cake sale fundraising – this is not something St Catherine's promotes as it is a healthy eating school (Healthy Schools Gold Award).

Mixing of classes at the end of the year – Miss Kelly confirmed that classes are not changed other than at the end of Reception into year 1.

After school activities – school continue to review the activities on offer.

Victorian Day feedback – Year 6 enjoyed their Victorian Day where they experienced life in a Victorian school lesson, writing on slate, making and writing with their own ink nibs, making toys, handling Victorian objects and learning what life might have been like for them in 1897.

Next meeting: Wednesday 18th May, 8.30am in school