

Summer 2019

SUMMARY

Attendees: Mrs Adams, Headteacher, Mrs Slattery, School Business Manager, Karen Richards, Chair of Governors, Andy Stevens, Vice Chair of Governors.
11 parents

You said...

So we...

World Book Day 2019

Why did we go for non fiction this year?
Much easier to create fiction outfits?
Reasoning behind the change could have been communicated better.

Quicksticks Tournaments

Medals were awarded to the first two teams but the other teams got nothing and children without medals got very upset.
Could the children at least be given a sticker for taking part?

Mrs Adams - all tournament participants are celebrated and rewarded in HSA assembly.
Mrs Adams agreed a sticker could be awarded on the actual day of the tournament. This would only be suitable for the younger children as learning to win and lose is an important skill.

School Photographs

A parent felt that the quality of the production of the class photos was poor this year and were expensive.
Other parents agreed.

Mrs Slattery - a project had been carried out by Team Office to look at alternate photographers. The decision to stay with Yellow was made on the basis of offering good value for money to parents.
Parents were invited to give Mrs Slattery details of alternative photographers used by other schools/nurseries who offered quality and value for money.

Sports Transport

A parent questioned why we do not use coaches for sports trips.

Mrs Adams - a coach costs around £300 for a trip. Governors had agreed to ask parents to transport children in order to restrict the amount we ask parents to pay for trips. The minibus is used as often as is appropriate for the trips.

Grandhordle Reading

A parent of an able reader reported that her child felt it was unfair that only the less able readers were called out to read with Grandhordles.

Mrs Adams - at a certain age and ability it becomes non-beneficial for a child to read with an adult. The education then moves on to comprehensive skills, understanding the text they are reading.
Mrs Adams - some children are not read with at home and we have a duty of care to ensure those children have the opportunity to read during the school day.
Discussions continued around whether able children could read with less able children which they already do.

<p>Sports Events A parent questioned why only the best children are chosen to go to tournaments and therefore it is always the same children.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams reported that nearly every child in the school has entered a tournament this year and it is Coach Dobson's intention to ensure every child has participated by the end of the year. The prediction for this by the end of the year is around 90% of children participating. Some children do not want to participate.</p>
<p>Refrigeration of Packed Lunches A parent expressed their concern that packed lunches were left outside during warm weather and asked if they could be refrigerated.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams - the cost of such large refrigerators was prohibitive as was the space requirements. Packed lunches are stored in areas of the grounds that get no sunlight. Other parents present at the meeting suggested the use of ice blocks help.</p>
<p>Distribution of Colours Some parents felt the distribution of colours was inequitable and asked why some children had armfuls of colours whilst some children had none. Parents wanted to be assured incentives were fair. A parent asked if it was possible to communicate with children what then need to do to achieve colours. A parent was concerned that children of staff and governors were given preferential treatment and awarded more colours than others.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams - The history of presentation of colours started with sport. The SLT then decided it should broaden to academic achievement and other achievement such as attendance in order that all children can be awarded a colour. The distribution of colours is monitored and reported to Governors regularly according to boy/girl, SEND, disadvantaged children and other categories. Mrs Adams explained that class teachers nominate children for colours and that teachers are ensuring that every child will have at least one colour by the end of this academic year. No preferential treatment is given to any child. Mrs Adams confirmed that parents could buy duplicates if they wished. FOLLOW UP - This point was followed up by the Governors in their Summer 2 meeting and was felt to be unfounded.</p>
<p>Water Fountains A parent asked for clarification on children's access to water throughout the day.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams - Children are given opportunities to have a drink throughout the school day. We have 3 water fountains, one of which is about to be replaced because it was not working well. Team water bottles go out with the children in their trays at break and lunchtime.</p>
<p>Zip Wire A parent asked why the zip wire was always locked up and not used. Many parents said how much their children enjoy using the zip wire and are excited when it is their team's chance to use it.</p>	<p>Mrs Slattery - the zip wire is always locked up at the end of each use to ensure it is not misused during the school day and also as a deterrent for any intruders that might be attracted to use it beyond the school day.</p>

<p>Shade A parent asked why we don't provide more shade.</p>	<p>Mrs Slattery - the children are encouraged to play den building games amongst the trees during warm weather. The back of the school which is shaded at lunch time is used during very warm weather. Furthermore, in exceptionally hot weather the lunchtime play is shortened and children are discouraged and monitored to ensure that they do not engage in overtly physical play.</p>
<p>Number on Roll A parent asked for an explanation as to why the number on roll has increased dramatically since the last Ofsted report.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams gave clarification that the difference between the two figures the parent had seen, one included the Nursery children and the other only included school aged children. The maximum number of school aged children had not increased for many years and not within the time Mrs Adams has been Headteacher.</p>
<p>Communication around Spellings Some parents felt that communication around when spelling test were going to happen was not clear. Sometimes children had tests that hadn't been communicated and on the other hand sometimes tests were cancelled.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams said she would discuss the matter of spellings with the KS1 team and would endeavour to ensure communication was improved. FOLLOW UP - Testing of KS1 spellings has now changed in light of parent request.</p>
<p>Handwriting Y1 2 and 3 A number of parents said that children learning cursive handwriting was causing problems and parents felt unable to help their children.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams - it had been for many years been the school's policy to teach cursive handwriting. However, this was a trial year for the current YR children. After positive feedback from staff and parents, it is anticipated that this change would continue next year.</p>
<p>Uniform A parent asked why cardigans were no longer part of the new uniform. One parent said the jumpers had not washed up well. A parent asked if the school had moved to navy checked summer dresses. Generally parents were happy with the new uniform.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams explained that in year R the children did not have the fine motor skills to manage the buttons and that children had cardigans hanging off their shoulders. She further explained that the move to jumpers only was as move towards gender-neutral uniform. Mrs Adams confirmed that the summer dress uniform was any shade of blue check.</p>
<p>Injuries and Absence A parent reported that they had explained to a member of staff on the door that their child was absent and assumed the office and teacher would be told. Another parent said they had reported an injury and the teacher had not been made aware.</p>	<p>Mrs Slattery - all children with injuries should come to see her so that she could ensure that the children were suitably cared for in school and that all staff that needed to know were told. Mrs Adams said a reminder would be sent to staff to ensure these messages are dealt with appropriately.</p>

<p>Diarrhea and Vomiting Parents asked what the school does to minimise the spread of illness.</p>	<p>Mrs Slattery – when we have an unusual amount of D&V, the cleaners carry out a deep clean and use chemicals that are not left on site. All classes have anti-bac wipes and anti-bac gel all year round. All children are reminded how to wash their hands effectively. The school contacts HSE for advice and follows that advice including what to tell parents.</p> <p>FOLLOW UP – Over the summer holidays the school has invested in hard flooring in Early Years where children are particularly vulnerable.</p>
<p>Packed Lunches in KS1 Why do the children not go to the hall for their lunches.</p>	<p>Mrs Slattery –KS1 have their packed lunches in Badger classes, away from any toilets. This is to avoid overcrowding in the hall. Children wash their hands before eating. Tables are anti-bac wiped before and after eating lunch. In the warm weather children have their lunch on the amphitheatre. KS1 children think they are special because they don't have to go to the hall.</p>
<p>Timing of Parent Forum Could we vary the time so that more parents can attend</p>	<p>Mr Stevens (vice Chair of Governors) – a survey of parents would be taken at the Learning Reviews so that we can offer times that suit the majority of parents.</p>
<p>PATCH – programme A parent asked if a programme of events could be issued at the beginning of each year.</p>	<p>PATCH parents at the forum said they would take that away and ensure it happens.</p>
<p>Reading with children times Clarification was requested as to when parents can come in and read with children.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams – mornings are restricted to first thing in the morning for half an hour as core subjects are then taught for the rest of the day. Afternoons – any time from 2pm would be very much appreciated.</p>
<p>School Lunches A parent asked if the child could ask for specific aspects of their lunch – ie a jacket potato kept separate from the filling. Another parent said that their child was eating a lot more different foods since starting school lunches.</p>	<p>Mrs Slattery – HC3S (the school's caterers) are obliged to serve the whole of the lunch so that children can be encouraged to try new foods and so that the parents know they are getting value for money. A child can ask for the filling to be put in the 'pudding' hole. Mrs Slattery will mention it to the kitchen team</p>

Parents views on the school	<p>A general discussion was held amongst parents about how great the school is and how pleased they are to be part of a happy school.</p> <p>They appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues at Forum and felt a lot better informed as a result.</p>
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