

## Samuel White's Infant School Parents' Forum Meeting - Friday 24th February 2017

**Present:** Helen Lees (HL), Sally Britton (SB), Emma Feather (EF), Bryony Davis (BD), Katy Dickson (KD), Alison Bleadon (AB), Lucia Cook (LC),

Apologies from Gabby Christopher (GC), Lisa Summerfield (LS) Jessica Gwyther (JG), and Katy Taylor (KT)

### **On-going items from previous meetings**

Scooters – after a successful consultation with the School Council a new scooter/bike rack will be installed. This is planned to be positioned next to the car park with the aim of preventing scooters and bikes being used in the playground at drop off.

**Update:** BD advised that this has been appreciated & there had been queries as to how this was funded. **GC will provide a further update in the newsletter.**

Play fighting/rough – this issue continues to be addressed with children during assemblies, additional monitoring at lunch time as well as alternative games being introduced.

**On-going.**

Timings at the end of the school day – seems to be less of an issue now parents have settled in to the new school year, but will continue to be monitored. **On-going.**

School photos - alternative photographers are being looked into for the school photos following concerns around quality, cost and sizing last time. The use of an individual photographer will not be possible due to numbers, however alternative companies who are able to offer this service are being investigated. **On-going.**

'Watch me learn' sessions – LS asked why 'watch me learn' sessions such as Marvellous Mondays were not run last term. GC confirmed she will look into reintroducing these sessions.

**Update:** Sessions have been well received. KD advised that it had been highlighted that there were queues for Reception & this had led to very little time to look through the childrens work. **GC will look into an earlier time start for this year group.**

Maths – LS asked if it would be possible to inform parents of the maths topics children are currently working on so parents can support their children at home. LS suggested this information could be incorporated into handwriting sheets. **Update** LS advised that parents were really impressed how quickly the Maths Focus has been added to the Homework sheets. Thank you.

Sports Day – LS asked if it would be possible to plan sports day this year for a month early in the summer to allow for contingency if it's necessary to rearrange. **On-going**

Gates leading to Reception playground – the large gate leading to the Reception play area is not open every morning. KD explained this is resulting in congestion particularly in the area around the entrance to JH class. GC to address in newsletter. **Update** KD advised that this is still a problem. **GC has advised that this is being addressed with staff & being monitored.**

Hi 5 super reader stickers – LC asked if reading from word boxes count towards Hi 5 stickers. GC to check this. **Update** GC has confirmed & advised that word boxes can count towards Hi 5 stickers. SB also raised that in previous years 70% achievement of Hi 5 stickers used to be given certificates once

a term. Will this be done again? **GC has liaised with literacy team & these were handed out at the end of last term & will again be handed out before Easter & at the end of the summer term.**

Parents' Forum members – MD to request if PF members' photos can go on class doors to improve the visibility of the members. MD also to check the website photos. **Update** Photos have been updated on web site. SB has liaised with MD where a suggestion of putting a group poster up in the library window as many parents do not get close to the classroom doors in Year 1 & 2. **MD to organise.**

Good hygiene practice – GC confirmed that children are encouraged to wash their hands though out the day, before meals and after using the bathroom. **SB has advised that this has been raised again. GC confirmed that the lunchtime hygiene procedure for those coming in from the playground is to hang up coats & then told to wash hands.**

Behavioural issues – SB and BD have both raised issues with children struggling with behavioural issues receiving additional privileges e.g. increased computer time, whereas children with good behaviour we generally not being rewarded. This was viewed as unfair and did not incentivise good behaviour. GC and MC reassured the forum that the school uses a number of ways to promote good behaviour, however not all of these are necessarily appropriate for every child. GC added that provision was tailored to meet each child's individual needs with rewards fairly distributed. **On-going HL advised that there would be a review to allow those that do the right thing to also be rewarded. This will be constrained by time & budgets.**

## **New Items**

Parents Evening – Overall a good experience. No details were sent out as to when the emails were going to arrive. Some problems were experienced by those who have more than one child at SWI.

SAT's Information Meetings – Again good feedback. Some reports that not everyone had received the invitation letter. **GC to arrange for a reminder to be sent out.**

Y1 & Y2 Play Areas – Again this has been raised that these areas are particularly dangerous when it is wet & frosty. **GC advised that they have quotes in for this to be improved but very expensive. Will look into whether anything non-slip could be temporarily painted onto some of the equipment.**

Timings of School Gate Closure at the end of the Day – A query has been raised as to when this is closed & if there is a deadline. **GC advised this is a Federation decision & there are no plans to amend timings.**

School lunches – EF queried why there was only a Cheese Option. **GC advised that this was put in place so that sandwiches could be available quickly. They are reviewing further options especially when the warmer weather starts.** SB also raised a number of queries that have been received that certain meals are not running out once Y2 get to have their dinners. GC advised that this is monitored closely & she is usually advised if there have been any shortages.

Class Photos – EF advised that last year when these were completed around the May Half Term many pupils were away. **Update** SB liaised with MD & MM April 25 has been scheduled for the Class Photos this year.

Teaching Assistants – EF advised that there is little awareness as to what the Y1/Y2 Teaching

Assistants look like or who they were. **GC to look into the best way of addressing this.**

Social Media Awareness Note EF requested a note providing information on Social Media Awareness. GC advised that this is coming out soon. Going forward information will be in HASP books.

Class Treats – KD advised that it has been raised that Class 1 have not had as many class treats. It was confirmed that this is not the case.

Teachers Off Sick - Raised by LS & KD\_Parents would like to be advised when teachers are off sick. No awareness of what happens when teachers are off sick in Reception – they are not aware that the Teaching Assistants lead. Difficult to publicise as this is quite personal & it is also difficult to predict or judge how long staff maybe off.

Colouring Club – KD advised that some children are reporting that this is not being done fairly. GC advised that each year rotates daily as does the attendance.

Leaflets for Holiday Clubs – KD advised that these are not given out in time. Some clubs are already fully booked. Message to be passed onto companies to issue details earlier.

World Book Day & Thinking Day – most people have been asked to raise that there was not enough notice for these dress down days. Some advised that they had not received texts about Thinking Day. Apparently these were only sent to girls as it was thought originally that it only applied to Rainbows & Brownies. There was also a suggestion that unwanted dressing up clothes could be donated to school. GC confirmed that as long as the clothes were in good condition then the school would gladly accept donations.

Intervention Groups – LS advised that a query had been raised as to what these groups were & that parents should be given more notice as to when & why this is happening. Agreed that some info could go on the School web site & GC confirmed that the letter should be sent to parents earlier.

Walking Bus Suggestion put forward from a member of LS class to help attendance. GC advised that this is a lovely idea. Currently attendance at SWI is good so if there this were to change this could be considered.

Entrance Into Classes When Raining Junior school is always open 5 minutes early to let children in when it is raining – this is seldom replicated in the Infants. GC to remind classes to be open when raining. **Update this has improved on the last 2 occasions for Y1 & Y2.**

**Next Meeting Friday May 5th 9 am.**