

Minutes Parents' Forum Meeting

Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 1:30pm

Attendees

Kate Barnes – Headteacher

Jayne Davies – Deputy Head and SENCO

Harriet Johnston – School Secretary

Jane Read – 3G

Beth Niven – 3C and 6W

Heather Chuter – 4H and 6M

Fleur Sinclair – 4N

Kathryn James – 5B

Becky Russell – 5RB

KW – 6H

1. Brenscombe residential trip

We have looked at the options to reduce the trip to three days but as a large number of parents have signed up we are apprehensive to alter the plans especially as the three day option didn't provide value for money (with much time spent travelling). A decision has been made to go ahead but to ask parents to contact us if they are struggling with the payments so we can discuss payment plans. There was the worry that some Y5 parents may have paid the deposit to secure their child's place but are hoping that changes might be made and it may cost less money in the long term. Y5 are going to look into fundraising options – could children make things and then sell them, or we run bake sales? Maybe in the future we need to look at the option of discussing the trip in Y3 so parents can start saving/making arrangements early. Y5 Parent Forum reps are going to go ahead with coordinating a fundraising committee.

2. Wishlists

KB wanted to discuss how parents felt about the wish lists. We are aware a very small amount of parents would have preferred us to use local shops rather than Amazon and we do understand this viewpoint. However, Amazon is a one-stop shop which parents can easily purchase from. If we asked parents to drive into town and purchase items the uptake is likely to be much lower, however if this is the preferred method of donation, we would gladly accept items from local shops. It was mentioned that due to the lack of events parents have been happy to purchase items to directly help the school as there has been nothing else parents can contribute to. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

3. Electing a new Chairperson

Jane Read has said she will be happy to be the Chairperson.

4. Music lessons – what else is on offer other than violin? 3G

In Year 4 all children learn the keyboard. There is also Choir Club on a Tuesday lunchtime. Sussex Academy of Music and Surrey Arts also provide music lessons which can be booked directly. More information is on our website.

5. School meals – request for improved offering for children with allergies and frustration with last minute swaps – 3G

There have been significant issues regarding food supply chains and staffing this term. This is an issue affecting all companies and KB asked that parents email directly on the Twelve15 website should they have any

complaints or concerns. We are aware the offering is not ideal and KB has been liaising directly with the company to raise concerns for some time now. If any children with allergies/intolerances feel what they were offered was not suitable please let us/Twelve15 know that same day so we can raise the concern.

6. After School clubs – could the next term clubs come our earlier so parents can give notice to external clubs if they want to switch to a teacher-led club – 3G
Yes we will do this for the next term.
7. PE – could Netball be taught – 3G
Netball will be taught in the Spring Term, alongside Hockey. Reps asked whether there be the possibility for parents to help with clubs so children can do a bit more. For example with Running Club if parents could volunteer to help could they run to Polecat? We are going to mention this in the newsletter and ask if any parents would be happy to volunteer. It does however mean we need to run DBS checks etc. which can take a little while to come through.
8. Pick up – chaotic, could we bring back the staggered start/finish or gates being opened earlier to allow parents to stand in areas of the playground – 3G
We will not be bringing back the staggered start/finish unless we are advised to do so by the Local Authority as it causes problems with the other local school pick ups. We do recommend parents spread out in the playground (as we have done with the classes) and will mention this in the newsletter so parents can more easily socially distance. Hopefully this will make the pick up process less chaotic.
9. Homework – understanding the reasoning on why it isn't set at the beginning of the week - 4H
A discussion about each year group schedule was had and how this progressed up to Y6, to prepare children for secondary school. Homework will always be set on one day unless the teacher doesn't want children attempting work that hasn't yet been taught. The days of the week homework is set should be consistent each week and will be listed in the homework diary. If children are struggling to complete work online via Google Classroom due to a lack of device then please may they contact the School Office so we can support them.
10. Possibility of a Year 4 sleepover – 4H
This is unlikely due to staff resources but we would recommend if parents are concerned about their children not staying away from home much prior to Sayers Croft that they organise a sleepover at a friend's house.
11. School competitions and sport fixtures – more notice so parents can juggle work to take, collect or watch children - 4H
Usually we would always try to provide two week's notice and will endeavour to do this next time. Occasionally this hasn't happened due to last minute changes and we do apologise that this can cause issues for parents.
12. Christmas party/lunch – 4N
This will be on Thursday 16th December.
13. Poppy Appeal – concern over the amount of plastic involved – 5RB
This can be fed back directly to The Royal British Legion by parents, we just receive the packs and don't have any say on what is supplied.
14. Crisp packets – can we collect and recycle these – 5RB

5RB to research this. We believe the crisp packets do need to be cleaned though, which could make the process more difficult.

15. Ticks and Lyme Disease – could we use a preventative spray on the children for when they use the woodlands/Polecat – 5RB

We will as always continue to promote the dangers of ticks and Lyme Disease and ask for parents to be vigilant and children to check their skin following playing in long grass. We couldn't spray children with a repellent due to allergies/consent/cost but parents would be welcome to supply spray for their child if they wanted to, in much the same way they do with sun cream.

16. Clothes collections – could we collect second hand clothes and then the school receives money based on the weight of the clothes collected? – 5RB

5RB to look into this. We have done this previously and raised £150. This may be a good idea to do post Christmas/early Spring when people may be having a sort out. The Infant School have recently done something similar as well.

17. AOB

- Reading Challenge was fantastic – could we do something similar for Maths?
- Could we do a foodbank/toy donation for Christmas? We could then either donate to the foodbank or we could invite certain families to come into school and choose a toy. We have to be aware that not all parents would feel comfortable doing this, but it is something we are going to think about and discuss with the HSLW.