

Parent Voice – Wednesday 19th October 2022 – Meeting Minutes

Attended by:

Miriam Morris (MM) (Headteacher)	Jessica Fanneran (Fox)	Jacqui Brand (Leopard)
Rachel McIlroy (Cygnet)	Anna Doyle (Hedgehog)	Kavita Hodge (Tiger)
Janine Tower (Duckling)	Kali Nicholson (Squirrel)	
Lisa Racloz (Gosling)	Natasha Laws & Leah Williams (Lion)	

1. School Development Plan (SDP)

MM shared key priorities we will be working on as a school this year.

Class Reps asked for some clarification on why sports and PE wasn't on the SDP. MM explained that staff feel that PE and Sports are organised and do not need to be a priority on our SDP this year. It was also explained that many aspects of school life are well embedded but that standards must be maintained.

There was also some interesting discussion around our plans to investigate making changes to our Behaviour Management system in school. MM explained that we will consult with all stakeholders (children, staff, parents) before making changes. Class Reps had varied views on how much they feel that their own children like or don't like the Sun, Rainbow, Cloud system.

MM was clear that changes may not be made, and that would only happen if we determine that it is the right decision for our school.

Actions: The SDP will be shared with parents via the Headteacher Newsletter and we will explain that it has already been shared with Class Reps.

2. Cricket Green Car Park

MM explained that there had been a complaint to Elmbridge Borough Council made by a member of the public about the use of the car park by parents, and that the council had contacted Manby Lodge about this over the Summer holidays. There was some consideration to make changes to rules about the use of the car park, but no decisions had been made.

We will keep parents informed about any changes communicated to us from Elmbridge Borough Council.

There are often issues with the use of this car park and Class Reps made suggestions about ways to combat this.

Suggestions were made:

- *to encourage walking / scooting / cycling to school and to engage children as part of an initiative, although other Class Reps felt that this could cause upset to their children because the family lived far enough away that use of a car was the only option. MM explained that we do hold walk / scoot / cycle initiatives during the year and that this would happen again as a matter of course.*
- *Reminding parents of other local places to park, other than the Cricket Green Car Park (could be done as part of the Park and Stride Scheme)*

Actions: School will look into setting up the Living Streets WOW Park and Stride Scheme.

Class Reps to find out from parents where there are good places to park further from school and feedback to school.

3. Mis-use of telephone numbers from Class WhatsApp groups

Class Reps shared advice for setting up two streams for WhatsApp Groups – one for school information only, and one for social events. This comes from parents finding that they were receiving too many WhatsApp messages!

There had also been a few cases of parents contacting one another by taking telephone numbers from the WhatsApp Group (of other parents) and contacting them directly about issues in school.

Actions: For Class Reps – ONLY if this has been an issue in your class WhatsApp Group:

Please remind parents that if a child reports that something has happened to upset them in school to come and speak to a member of staff, and not to go directly to the child's parent. Thank you.

Questions from classes

Year 2

Lion Class

- Some of these questions were very particular to the class – responded to and actioned by MM (HT).
- Koosa - Cleves have increased their costs, does Miss Morris know if Koosa are planning an increase in fees? In terms of other schools I believe Oatlands uses a different format for morning club at a much lower cost. Could Manby explore other options? With all other costs rising, it would be good to find some savings in other places.
- Also, how to approach Koosa to request better stimulation for children (from children's feedback). Is it possible to have a break-down of activities for what they do?

MM explained that Oatlands do offer After School Care at a lower cost and that as far as we know, it is because it's run by school staff, as opposed to an outside agency. The hours for this club are also different as far as we are aware. We have no plans to make changes to who runs our Wrap Around Care provision. MM has been liaising with one of the Managers and it is our understanding that they will communicate to parents who use Koosa shortly, about improvements to the provision and structure of the club.

Leopard Class

Only one bit of feedback re communication – a parent feels like we're getting too many emails. *There are mixed views on this – with some Class Reps feeling that school has successfully streamlined emails.*

Action: MM to discuss with School Office – can we streamline any further?

Parent Consultations - these meetings were held virtually for the past 2 years and worked really well in terms of child care. Would you consider holding these in a blended way - one day in person meetings (useful for those who have wrap around care) and one day virtual meetings (useful for those who can't get child care)?

We had a brief discussion on why staff feel that it's important to speak to parents face to face. Teachers really wanted to share children's work with parents in order that parents can better understand the needs of their children and what they need to do to support them. Class Reps agreed that it would be worthwhile sending this information to parents ahead of the meeting. Additionally, in person meetings had not been held for a long time (due to Covid) so this information will be sent along with a clear explanation about how the sessions will work.

Tiger Class

There was only a question about the limit of spaces in certain extra-curricular clubs – those run by school staff. I explained that new children would be invited to separate sessions for various clubs throughout the year. Class Reps suggested sending an email to alert parents when the clubs spaces would be announced – to give working parents the opportunity to plan and prepare, and not to miss the email.

Action: MM to speak with Office Staff about this 'alerting' email.

Year 1

Squirrel Class

Hedgehog Class

Fox Class

There were no specific questions from Year 1 parents other than those pertaining only to individual children.

Year R

Duckling Class

The only question that our class has is, during Reception Class Shared Learning, there were some parents who were turned away due to having younger siblings with them. They feel that it's a bit unfair/unclear.

Class Reps agreed that school had clearly communicated the expectations about bringing younger siblings to Shared Learning.

Gosling Class

If the school would consider allowing children to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days to spend less time getting changed and misplacing clothes?

MM explained that we, as a school staff, consider this on an annual basis, but that because independence is such an important skill to develop, we are very keen that we train children to change quickly, and to take care of their own belongings as well!

Cygnets Class

Parents in Cygnets Class also asked about Parent Teacher Meetings virtually – see where we discussed this under Leopard Class.