

Parent Voice meeting Friday 10th October 2025

Parents present from: Ducklings, Goslings, Cygnets, Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox, Lion, Leopard

Staff: Mrs Georgie Hughes (EYFS Lead, Duckling Class Teacher), Mrs Nicola Trodd (KS1 Lead, Fox Class Teacher)

1. Class WhatsApp Group guidance was shared with reps and asked to be circulated.
2. School Development Plan was shared with reps. This will be shared with all parents in the Headteacher Newsletter
3. Session for parents to ask questions – see below:

Parents raised concerns about how quickly people are driving down Princes Road and have witnessed two near misses recently. They also asked whether the previously mentioned highways check has been carried out.

- Miss Morris frequently asks parents to park considerately in her newsletter.

ACTIONS:

Signpost parents to other local parking available e.g. Pine Grove, York Road, Churchfields Avenue and remind them that it may also be a good idea to 'park and stride.'

Check with Miss Morris whether the highways check has been completed.

How is R.E being taught in Year 1 as some children have been coming home and telling parents that what they have learned is factual.

- In R.E lessons teachers will always tell the children that this is what *some people* believe. We do not tell them that this is factual. Another parent explained that her children grew out of believing everything that they hear is true and do begin to ask questions.

ACTIONS:

Mrs Trodd to meet with R.E lead and share a communication in the Headteacher Newsletter, about how R.E/Science are taught.

Some children are coming home with full water bottles. Can we remind them to drink water?

- Children have free access to water bottles throughout the day. They are taken to the playground at lunch time. Children are supervised while they eat and have to show the adults that they have finished their water before they can go out to play.

ACTIONS: teachers to remind children to drink water at points during the school day.

Can children have more reading books/can they be changed more frequently?

- Phonics Books will continue to be sent home on Fridays. They are given based on children's phonics knowledge and will contain sounds the children need to practise. It is beneficial for the children to re-read books to develop confidence and fluency. Children are welcome to read other books outside of their reading books, for example library books, or other books at home. If there are any parents who don't have enough books and would like financial assistance to buy books, please speak to Miss Morris or Mrs Saffer.

Can children come into school in their P.E kits?

- Children will continue to come into school in their school uniform and change when they have P.E lessons. This is for safeguarding purposes and to help them develop independence. If children need help there are always staff in the class to help them.

Can parents be notified if there is going to be a substitute teacher?

- If there is a long term absence parents will be notified. If it is a short-term/last minute cover there is not time in the day to notify parents. Classes are almost always covered by members of school staff – please see the following page on the school website: <https://www.manbylodge.co.uk/meet-our-staff/>

Could the fence at the back of the playground be covered as it is very open?

- Yes – new screening has been ordered and is at the office.

Why were children allowed to watch three Bluey episodes in a row?

- If it is heavily raining and the children cannot go outside we have to combine the classes so that the children are all supervised. In these instances children are allowed to watch some episodes of television programmes. The lunch break will also consist of movement breaks e.g. a game of Simon Says. We are fortunate that it rarely rains, and wet play is unusual.

Can information sessions/workshops be both recorded and in person?

- Yes – we are looking into the best way to facilitate this. We will continue to run the in person sessions which end with a Q&A session. A parent volunteered to scribe this so this could then be emailed to all parents with the presentation slides. Any further questions can then be emailed to the school office.

How are children chosen for proud posts/the class mascots?

- School staff ensure all of the children in the class are given the opportunity to receive proud posts over the course of the year. This is the same with the class mascots. Each child will be chosen over the course of the year – this is done on a random basis.

Can the lighting be improved on the Barrington Lodge entrance?

- ACTION: The Headteacher and School Business Manager will investigate this.

Why do we use NumBots? Some parents shared concerns around gamification of learning and the fact that it is screen-based.

- NumBots is an **optional** activity for the children to access at home. It will analyse how quickly and accurately how children answer questions and then tailor their questions accordingly. There is a big emphasis on the fluency of number recall and NumBots really helps with this.

Whiteboard pens stain children's clothes.

- This is really unfortunate but mini whiteboards are a quick, effective way for teachers to assess children's understanding.

Some parents were dissatisfied with the school photos from last year.

- We used a new company last year following dissatisfaction from the previous company.

Is there any way to consolidate the amount of emails that are sent?

- The school does consolidate and send most communication on a Friday afternoon. Anything urgent is highlighted and sometimes we cannot avoid sending out a communication mid-week. Lots of emails come from specific extra-curricular clubs, and not from school.

Could parents please have some more notice if resources are needed?

- Yes, we will give more time – ideally two weeks' notice.

When will curriculum overviews be sent?

- Curriculum overviews will be sent with the Dear Parents for the first week back at school.

Can there be more (parent?) events?

- We cut back on the amount of events that were taking place during the day following feedback from parents who were unable to make these due to work commitments.