

Parent Voice - Meeting Minutes – Friday 27 03 26

Present:

Class Reps:

Claudia Tavaré - Gosling Class

Amy O'Brien – Squirrel Class

Abi Croswell – Leopard Class

Kavita Joshi – Cygnet Class

Trilby Fox-Rumley - Fox class

Vibhuti Vakharia – Duckling Class

Alison Bringé - Hedgehog Class

Miriam Morris – Headteacher (MM)

1. Screen time and use of mobile phones

We had a brief discussion about this topic and talked about recent Department for Education (DfE) guidance to schools about the use of mobile phones.

MM asked for opinions from Class Reps about banning/discouraging parents and carers from using mobile phones in the playground. This is in response to recent news coverage about the impact of mobile phone usage on children. The primary reason for this is so that parents in school can be role models for our children. Safeguarding is another reason for this proposal.

Class reps had some useful information to share which we will share when we communicate with parents about use of mobile phones in the playground.

Class Reps with children at Cleves confirmed that Cleves has already made the playground a 'no mobile zone'. Manby Lodge already has a 'no mobile' policy in the school building, so the plan is that we will extend this.

We agreed that MM would liaise with the Headteacher at Cleves, and draft communication to share with parents to introduce the extension.

2. School Development Plan

MM explained the progress we've made against our key priorities this year. We will send out an update for parents this week.

Class Reps:

- asked if we needed food donations for our Food Bank. We will confirm and communicate to parents.
- suggested that we could work with the Cricket Club regarding changes to the boundary fence in the Reception outside area when we revamp it – which was a very good idea, and we will approach the Cricket Club.
- asked about Zones of Regulation and how we use these in class. MM explained that we will be 're-launching the way to use Zones of Regulation for teachers. Class Reps asked that parents are also informed about how this works, so that they can use the Zones at home with children.
- asked about the installation of Air Con in the hall. They were pleased that money raised by parents with FOML will go towards this project. We plan to install Air Con in the hall during the Easter holidays.

3. Opportunity for parents to ask questions via Class Reps

- **Are funerals considered 'exceptional circumstances' when parents request absence for their children?**
Yes – we authorise absence for a funeral (or other ceremony e.g. wedding).
- **When should parents receive Tapestry comms in Year R? (it seems inconsistent)**
MM to check on consistent use of Tapestry across Year R and communicate to parents. MM also confirmed that tapestry is not used for other updates or parent/teacher communication as it is only used for YR.
- **Are Year 1 and 2 using Teams to share photos?**
MM to check communications with parents e.g. Dear Parents, Meet the Teacher meetings, and confirm with Class Reps and let parents know.
- **When it is wet play are there other activities other than screens?**
We have games and colouring activities out so that the children can choose what they do.
- **Is the fruit snack that children have in the morning washed before the children eat it?**
Most fruit snacks do not need washing, but staff are directed to wash fruit that comes in bags where it says 'wash before use'.

- **Parents asked how maths is taught in EYFS? Do children sit down and do maths sums?**
- We discussed how learning in EYFS differs from what some parents can probably imagine. MM to share maths curriculum documents in the next Headteacher Newsletter. As children move into Year 1 and Year 2, parents will get to see more learning in action through Shared Learning events.
- **Parents asked if it is possible to give out more prizes at Sports Day.**
MM confirmed that we are planning on increasing the number of prizes we give out, as we recognise that we need to give out a few more than we have done over the last two years.
- **Parents asked if all children get equal access to visit the library.**
It seems that not all Year 2 classes have re-started library visits after Christmas and have been guided to set these up again asap. Year R classes don't normally start until end of Spring/early Summer. Please can any Year R parents keen on helping with the library contact their child's class teacher.
Parents who help with the library will need to have a valid DBS and will also need to have attended a Volunteer Safeguarding Session for parents.
- **Do all children get to attend a 'Staff led club'? There are concerns with parents that as names are drawn from a hat for each individual club – it is not fair – eg child A may get to attend Craft and Tennis, while child B might not get picked for either club.**
MM to speak to Office Staff about how this is done and communicate to parents in future Newsletter.
- **Is it possible to link the School Calendar to parents' phones?**
Yes, we think this is possible. Office Team to communicate how to do this to parents.
- **Parents asked if as much notice as possible was given to events where parents are expected to attend?**
We always try to give as much notice as possible.

AOB:

We have asked Class Reps to poll parents about '**Cauliflower cards**' (when children create Christmas cards). If there is little parent uptake, we will stop this initiative.

If parents have any issues that they feel have not been addressed above, please contact their child's class teacher directly.