

Parent forum's May 2018

Can I get an idea of what vegetables my child eats?

You can ask that your child is monitored at lunchtimes if you have concerns that your child is not eating food. The lunchtime staff will keep a close eye and let your child's class teacher know if there are any problems. This would usually be for a short period of time to allay any concerns.

"Thanks for the support ___ has received. To watch how all of the Reception children have come on is brilliant. We definitely feel we made the right choice coming to Milford."

Can we do some days where we send our children in with packed lunch, and some days hot food? If not, is there a reason that could be shared?

I will speak to Innovate and the Office Team to ask the question and will respond in due course. (Mr Stear)

Is Milford School going to expand?

Not at this time. Surrey have carried out feasibility studies and current places planning projections indicate that there is not a need for additional places in our area at this time. Should this change, parents will be informed and consulted on any potential changes. I do agree with many parents who feel that there should be a Community School option in our area for Key Stage 2, as opposed to only church school options but this is out of our control.

Suggestion – Birthday party invites cause some concern and anxiety for some children. Can we anonymously put them in book bags/is there a way of managing it better?

This has been put to staff to consider. Initial feelings were that there is no real easy fix for this, except possibly parents organising the handing out of invitations etc themselves outside of school. When a decision has been reached, we will let you all know.

Homework – we would like homework more consistently and more regularly.

This will begin to happen over the 2nd half of Summer term and will continue from September 2018. Parents will also be given some updated guidance on homework including spellings books. There will be some Maths homework, English, spellings, Topic over the course of the year (not all in one week though!) Remember – if homework becomes a battleground and a struggle, speak to the teacher who will be keen to help.

Website updates – can Elm Class have more updates on their class page please?

Since April Elm Class parents have had regular curriculum updates through the Facebook group. Mrs Hendry has worked hard to get the class page up to date over half term and is aiming to make this a more regular occurrence.

Snacks – my child often gets hungry in the afternoon. Some classes seem to have extra fruit for the pm. Could parents maybe send a healthy snack in for the afternoon?

I will speak to staff about this. It could be a possibility.

RE – are the children taught about other religions than Christianity?

Yes, we follow the Surrey RE syllabus, which incorporates units on other religions than Christianity. It follows the children through their school journey, meaning that by Year 6, children will have covered all major world religions.

“Buddy Bench Police” – can we have children on rota to check children on the buddy bench?

Yes, we do have some Year 2 Play Leaders who go out on the playground and try to involve children in games. We also have a good ratio of staff to children on duty at all times. Any child who is on their own (at the Buddy Bench or otherwise) is encouraged and supported to find somebody to play with. Unfortunately sometimes children don't want to play or be helped in this way and we can't force them.

My children would like to be able to wipe their face after lunchtime. Could the children wipe their face on a tissue before leaving the hall?

Yes. If you would like to send in wet wipes for your child to wipe their face after eating lunch, before going to the playground that is absolutely fine. Please ensure your child knows to put the wipe in a bin or their bag, not the toilet to avoid blockages.

My child loves the playground but has asked if we can have more imaginative toys e.g. dinosaurs, figures etc.

We have recently bought benches with games for the children to use at lunchtime. If parents would like to donate some used 'child-safe' toys and figures for use at playtime and lunchtime, we will store in a box and get out at these times.

Computer work – can it be more regular. It doesn't seem to be every week at the moment in my child's class.

Every class should be doing regular computing as part of our school curriculum. Sometimes this will be every other week or there might be some learning 'blocked' together. The Milford Friends have recently purchased a further 17 tablet computers to replace our failing 'learnpads'. Our IT company have almost finished the setup of these (it has taken quite some time sadly). This will enable more classes to use IT even more regularly.

After school clubs – Most of the clubs are sporty. Are there options for other types of clubs? I feel that parents are probably prepared to pay a bit more.

We have expanded the number of clubs available to parents to include one running every day. We recently introduced gymnastics club in response to parent feedback that they felt lots of the clubs were more geared towards boys. Interestingly our clubs do generally have a good mix of boys and girls. I have looked at choir club in the past and a computing club option, but both came out as incredibly expensive. I have renegotiated with 'All-star choir' and have a meeting with someone this week about the possibility of running a couple of taster sessions this half term with a club starting in September (although where we will hold it I am unsure at this point) – with the price likely to be in line with other clubs we run at Milford, depending upon uptake. I am also keen to run a computing club myself, but have been waiting to get all of the equipment fully functional prior to beginning this.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who attended the forum's for their thoughts and suggestions. I look forward to holding another forum after September 2018. Your support is always appreciated. Mr Stear and all at Milford School.