

Parent Forum 21.11.16

Willow

1. Some of the Reception children would really like to do some of the after school clubs but aren't allowed to join them. Could there be some clubs specially for Reception? Or would it be possible for Reception children to join existing clubs?

This is definitely something I'm prepared to speak to SCL about. It really does depend upon the child and how ready they are for an after school club. If it's possible, it will happen after Christmas.

2. Do the children have an assembly or carpet time about the buddy bench, what it's for etc. I don't know if this was done for the kids when it was first installed?

Currently they have not this year, but have in the past. But we will pick it up as an assembly in the next 2 weeks and refer back to it occasionally!

Beech

1. Ever since watching the Harvest assembly I had a thought about having something like a seating plan of the sports hall where parents can sit/stand on the right side of the hall so they can see their little ones better. And if that can either be emailed prior to a performance or just printed and displayed on the entrance.

Happy to do something like this. Hopefully the new staging will help, but using the sides for standing could work (will need to check during rehearsals to gauge how much space is taken up by classes!) Shouldn't be an issue with the plans for Christmas performances!

2. Could there be some wipes or kitchen roll available at lunch time so the children can wipe their face/hands at lunch. I don't know if there is some already?

I will see if this is available or if it could be.

Elm (note: Irene cannot make meetings on Monday afternoons any more)

From Irene (and also backed up by me!!):

The buddy system is a good focal point, one that I enquired about the last couple of years - hopefully this year we can get it implemented.

My thoughts and ideas were for the year 1 children to be introduced to the new reception children on one of their visits, each year 1 child to write a little letter (with drawings if they want and possibly a photo) about themselves Their name, their class their favourite lesson, lunch menu, etc... This letter is then given to one of the new reception children.

During the first couple of weeks of the new academic year, the Now year 2 children (who wrote the letters) to walk with the new reception children to the big playground and generally show them around and help them settle in. And for all children to re learn the reason and use for the buddy bench.

I think it would make the year 1 children feel super important. to have such a responsible job.

(As a friends thing, we could use some of the year 1 children to help show the new reception parents where to go at the summer picnic)

This sounds like a lovely idea and something I am really keen on. I will share with the staff and ask them to put plans in place!

Lime

1. What are we doing now (as a school) to improve the standard of writing, and what do we (as a school) need to do next?

The School Development plan is on the website in the Policies-School Documents section. Miss Morgan has a comprehensive plan in place for English (writing in particular). Mrs Ward has introduced something called a 'Big Write' across the school. This is an extended piece of writing that happens each week (it is usually determined by the children, hence being more motivational). Afterwards, 'conferencing' happens, where the teacher speaks to each child on a 1:1 basis about their writing, agreeing good things and 'next steps'. They then refer back to this over the following weeks. We have also invested in a whole school handwriting scheme of work called Penpals which appears to be having a positive effect already.

2. I really like all the new rewards they're doing for the children e.g. Mr Stear's class awards (Lime got one for best home learning), and the values leaves. It seems like there's been a big push on this which is great. I really enjoyed being able to look round the classroom and see the children's books on parents evening.

I am glad the class awards have proved popular and motivational. Home learning is a great thing, but when it's led by the children it is much more powerful than us simply setting homework. I am glad also that you enjoyed seeing the children's books. I feel it is really important you see the children's work, because without that, conversations at parents evenings don't really have as much focus.

3. We've had a couple of emails on the day they apply too i.e. Parents evening - writing in the children's class books. Pick up/gate arrangements for sleep story night. For working parents it's not ideal- you just don't check your private email when you're at work! More notice that's all..

Apologies for the 'on the day' email about parents evening. It only came to my attention that traditionally books don't go out for parents evenings at Milford the evening before (I was surprised). I then had to explain my expectations to staff the next morning before getting an email straight out to parents.

4. Also applies to the changing of the Christmas play set up - way too late notice. Some grandparents travel from far away and had already booked hotels

With regards to Christmas. I tried to give at least a months notice, but do appreciate that some people would plan further in advance of that, so sorry. What I wanted to do was give each class a chance to shine and really celebrate the performance (a bit of a different structure to previous years). I hope it will be worth it and you can be assured, the same structure will be applied next year with dates going out very early. Sorry again!

Other bits

Maths/SEN workshops – can they be recorded/put on youtube please for parents that can't attend?

The Maths and SEN workshops will either be recorded or the facilitator will upload a commentary video onto our school youtube channel for those that can't attend.