

**Parent's Forum Minutes – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

**Attended by parents/carers of children in the following year groups:**

Reception (3), Year 1 (1), Year 2 (0), Year 3 (1), Year 4 (0) Year 5 (1), Year 6 (1)

**Welcome from Mr Hazell & Mrs Allen**

- Parents were invited to raise any points from the previous minutes which they were given time to read
- A newspaper article from the Financial times with the heading 'Funding cuts threaten to undo progress in London schools' was distributed for parents to read

**Mrs Allen discussed responses from parents raised at the previous meeting and opened a further discussion**

<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Responses from school</b>	<b>Responses from parent</b>
Can the blog be password protected	Mrs Allen said that unfortunately, this is not something that can be done. She said she has sent a letter to parents outlining the reasons why	Parents asked if everyone can be made aware of this so Mrs Allen will now send this to the whole school
Concerns about eating unhealthy desserts at lunchtimes	A meeting was held and a nutritionist attended. Parents were advised that the meals provided balance themselves out so they only provide the calorie intake that children need. Minutes of the meeting are available on the school website	Some parents felt that dessert are still on the menu too much. A suggestion was made about having Greek yoghurt on the menu with fruit which will be put forward
Parents felt that the children do not understand the things on the menu	Mrs Allen said that the menus are done in 3 weekly cycles and put on the website so they can discuss the options at home. Parents were encouraged to talk to their children about healthy eating	A parent said she had done this with her child and they were able to talk about the meals for the next day
Who can we approach if we want to know what our children are eating	Speak to the class teacher who will discuss with the midday meal supervisor. Children are encouraged to eat healthily and are not able to go for dessert unless they have eaten the majority of their food	None
When is the best time to approach class teachers?	They are available just before and at the end of the school day. If it is a concern rather than a question, an appointment can be made through the office	If it is an issue which is something that may affect a number of children, the class representatives can be emailed and they will support you in forwarding the concerns to the right person
The toilets are unclean, can they be cleaned more frequently?	Mrs Allen said that she is the environment coordinator and that children were being encouraged to use the Nature garden but there were not enough wellington boots available so the mud was being tracked into the toilets. This has now been rectified as a parent made a donation of boots and there are now enough for each child. The toilets are also being cleaned more often	Parents said that if they feel that the toilets are still unclean they will notify a member of staff

## **Other points**

### **Espresso**

Espresso is an on line application for Early Years through to Year 6 that has valuable resources for. A number of people have not accessed the site as they do not know the password. The password will be put into the newsletter.

### **School shoes**

A parent queried as to whether kickers are able to be worn in school. Mr Hazell said that the dress code states sensible black shoes but that sometimes this is flouted and people have butterfly designs or flashing lights. Kickers will be fine to wear as long as they are not patent and it is the Kicker shoes not the boots.

### **School lunches – portion size**

A parent raised a concern that her daughter was given dry pasta and one potato for lunch. She also said that her children's class are always last and that the other day they said they had no cake left but there was a tray at the back. The parent said that the lack of food her child is getting is not just a one off and has been happening over time. It was clarified that the classes go in for lunch on rotation so all classes have the opportunity throughout the week to be first and last. Mrs Allen will speak to the child with regards to the portions sizes. There are at least two teachers as well as support staff in the hall at all times that the children can approach if they have an issue. A member of the senior leadership team also does a duty. Mr Hazell said portion sizes were brought up during a school council meeting and children said that sometimes they do not get enough food. Mr Hazell encouraged the children to ask for more should this happen.

### **Staff in the playground**

A parent said her daughter says her teacher is not in the playground. It was felt that the child may have been talking about her class teacher rather than there not being any adults in the playground at all. It was clarified that a teacher and support staff are on duty for first break and that in the playground at lunchtime, support staff undertake the duty so there are always a number of adults in the playground and children should be encouraged to approach any of them with a concern.

### **Do we monitor and gain feedback from After School Clubs?**

The breakfast and after school clubs are monitored as they are run by school staff however, external providers are not monitored.

### **Communication and club allocation**

Parents felt that information regarding cancellation of clubs should be better as the notice they are given is very short. They said that they understand that people become unwell but this could be better managed. There was also a point raised regarding clubs and when these are booked. Parents felt it would be beneficial to book clubs at the beginning of the term rather than at the end as if a child is not allocated a place, parents have the opportunity to arrange an alternative but if the allocations are made at the end of term, places in clubs have already been filled. Mrs Allen will speak to the office regarding this.

### **Exercise**

Parents felt that children could be given the opportunity to do some exercise at break times as sometimes when they get home, they are bouncing off of the walls as they have not had the opportunity to get rid of their excess energy. It was explained that staffing would not permit this as whilst there is enough staff to manage children in the playground, if there are groups going to do exercises then that would be a problem for ratios. A parent suggested that during wet play, they watch an exercise video. Due to space, this may present a Health and Safety issue as some of our upper Key Stage 2 children are quite big and there is not enough space in the hall for a number of children to exercise. A parent said that maybe at weekends, parents could take the children to do a form of exercise. Oasis nature Garden was suggested as safe place with both indoor and outdoor spaces to play.

### **Positive comments and next steps**

Ms Allen invited parents to write down some of the 'Positives' within the school as well as suggestions for areas for improvement and place them on the board.

### Exercise books / Handwriting

A parent said that her daughter in Year 1 is upset as her handwriting is neat but now she has smaller lines which are too small and her daughter is becoming frustrated. Parent says her daughter has been told not to use rubbers. Mrs Allen highlighted that making mistakes is a part of learning so it is fine to do that. It was thought that the books with the thinner lines had been given to the class in error however, Ms Grace explained that these were not given in error but there is a big push on handwriting and the same books are being used across the school.

### PTA

Alex reported that the PTA does not have a committee there will potentially be no money raised for trips. They currently need a chair, a treasurer and a secretary so it would be very helpful to spread the word to parents to let them know these positions are available as without anyone filling them, it could have a demonstrative effect for future excursion etc. Some parents said that they would like to help but work full time and asked if role shares would be possible. Everyone was encouraged to attend the next PTA meeting which is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March to discuss this in more details.

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Areas to consider over the next year</b>
The maths workshop for years 1 and 2 was fantastic! – more please	Would like to know what the handwriting policy is  Can a link be sent to parents to access the 'pen pals' website to do some of the work at home
Pleased with the intervention groups offered to year 1 for children falling behind in preparation for assessments in June. Have also been able to access help teachers in school	Can children do indoor exercise on rainy days?
Great class trip to the museum - children were talking about it for days	Outdoor play is still a bit scary for younger children  Are there teachers to support play, accidents and trips to the bathroom
Great teaching and learning opportunities for reception this term, Museum trip, growing plants and making models	Can children who are struggling in English and Maths be given extra assistance?
Art club was fantastic!	The work my daughter is producing in Science Club is disappointing especially considering the cost of the club. When the child was asked about what she had produced, she was unable to use any scientific reason. Can parents find out what the children are doing at the club?
	More sensitivity for children with a strong faith when going on faith based trips

### Discussion regarding the Financial Times Newspaper article

Mr Hazell discussed the issue of funding which schools are currently experiencing. Everyone had the opportunity to read the article which Mr Hazell then reflected on.

He advised that whilst there is more money being put into school, there are also more children in education so it is counterproductive. The money has stayed the same for the past 4 years but we are paying 10-13% more for everything. This year, Lambeth have decreased funding by £40,000 and they are looking to save £80,000 in the year 18/19. Mr Hazell said that money is being taken from certain areas and put into others.

Lambeth are currently involved in lobbying the government to give more money to schools.

10 years ago, Lambeth were not doing well as a Borough academically but now it is above average. Clapham Manor remains above average and we would like to sustain this.

Mr Hazell has asked for 2 representatives to be part of the Lambeth 'fair funding' campaign.

Parents requested further information regarding this and Mr Hazell said that he will ensure further information is put into next week's newsletter as well as sending it to the class reps. (9<sup>th</sup> March).

A parents felt that in order to garner support, it may be worth considering setting up a petition suing change.org as once 100,000 signatures have been received, it would have to be considered.

Mr Hazell said that London has its difficulties but when the money is provided, we have had proven success with our vulnerable children. A parent asked if the funding decreasing is due to the drive for schools to become Academies? Mr Hazell said that that is no longer happening however, a lot of money has been put into free schools and unfortunately, some schools are now running using a business models which we would like to prevent.

The funding meeting will be held at Sunnyhill Primary School on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

#### **Closing points**

Mrs Allen introduced Ms Grace as she will be taking over the home/school liaison role and will be present at future parent forums. Ms Grace invited parents to have a think about what they would like from her in that role.

**The date and time of the next Parent Forum is to be confirmed**