



BURLINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Class Parent Rep Meeting Minutes Friday 29th April 2022

The PTA opened the meeting and appealed to all reps for volunteers for the school fair,

This year we want the summer fair to be a fun event and celebration of our community after the last couple of years of restrictions. The fair will be Jubilee themed. We need lots of help from parents, both on the day and before. Parent reps were asked to talk to their classes about volunteering in any way they can, including donations and contacts they may have for prizes.

Parent reps have been asked to use sign up sheets/online documents or Whatsapp group to recruit help.

Developments

Now that we are coming out of the pandemic, events are starting to be restored. Curriculum meetings are taking place on two days in May (13th and 20th May) and other events will follow.

Items from last meeting

Mr Williams then addressed other items that had been raised at the previous meeting: clubs, homework and communication.

Clubs

Summer clubs have just started and parents agreed that there is now a good variety of clubs and all children who want a club have been accommodated. The School Gateway app is working well for payments. Mrs Utting reminded parents that some club spaces have been funded through the Pupil Premium Fund, a fund given to schools to improve the experiences of disadvantaged children.

Homework

There were mixed feelings about homework at the previous meeting. Mrs Utting hopes that the new homework grid now offers a useful mix of traditional and flexible homework options. Parents appreciated that expectations for spelling and reading were very clear now.



Mrs Utting explained that she is trying to find a compromise between parents who want us to set more homework, others less, but ultimately homework shouldn't become a battle causing stress between parents and children. Our Home Learning Policy also clarifies what time should be spent on homework.

<https://www.burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=4590&type=pdf>

Weekly staff newsletter reminds staff of the positive effects of recognising effort where homework is concerned.

Some parents raised that homework is pitched at one level and that some children will struggle. Mrs Utting explained that parents need to make contact with the teacher in the first instance to discuss this, and then Mr Blow or Mrs Utting if further help is needed. Homework diaries are the best means of communicating homework issues to teachers, or an email via the school office.

Communication

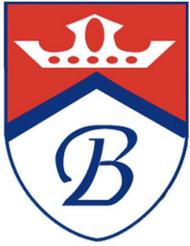
Discussed the new format of the newsletter. Parents are impressed with the look; it looks very professional and makes for an easy read. The frequency is taking some getting used to. Parents are used to weekly updates regarding upcoming events and parent reps say that parent Whatsapp activity has increased since the change. Mrs Utting pointed out that this information is on the date card but that we would look into the possibility of a quick email being sent on a Friday reminding parents of any events for the upcoming week.

Teachers will be reminded to put the newsletter up on the whiteboards on the day of issue so that children can see their names and achievements.

Regarding streams of communication, email is the most effective way to communicate with parents. We have taken on board comments that parents were receiving too many different notifications and we have tried to streamline that. On the suggestion of Governors, we now also use School Gateway which is the same as the Infants, so that parents do not have to get used to a new comms system. Google Classroom was suggested but this is really a platform for the children to use.

Peer-on-peer abuse

There is a big drive from the Department for Education to highlight peer-on-peer abuse which is often seen as just a secondary school problem, but also



impacts on primary aged children. PHSE sessions address issues such as language and behaviour, gender stereotypes, respect and acceptance. Posters have been placed around the school about the NSPCC's 'Talk PANTS'. PANTS is a simple and clever acronym devised to teach children the underwear rule: **privates are private; always remember your body belongs to you; no means no; talk about secrets that upset you and speak up, someone can help**. There will also be a chance to discuss this at the next Parent Forum and a section of the school website contains links to information.

<https://www.burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=72>

Lollipop Person

Unfortunately this role is no longer council funded, school would have to pay which we are unable to do due to budget pressures. However, we welcome fundraising ideas or volunteers if parents feel strongly about this.

New PE Kits from September

Information has been updated, PE kits can be navy if royal blue is difficult to source. This comes into force in September 2022.

Parents' evenings

On the whole, online parents' evenings were much preferred by parents. There is still some demand for face to face so a hybrid of online and face to face will be explored.

Parents' meetings such as PGL will take place face to face and we do not currently have the equipment to be able to stream the meeting live which would require conference type technology.

Residential trips

There will be a camp night for Year 5 this term, dates are on the date card. Mr Williams assured parents that there will be a week of fun activities for those Y6 children not going to Marchant's Hill, as will for non Sayers Croft children in Year 4.

Mixing classes



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Parents questioned why classes were mixed going into Y4. Mrs Utting explained that previously (many years ago) the classes were mixed coming up to Y3 but she felt (and parent feedback at the time) that it was preferable to keep the children in familiar classes coming up to the Junior school to help transition. Teachers can then see where additional needs are so that classes can be evened out for Y4. Once we tried not mixing at all but this led to problems in Y6 when the children were too familiar with each other, which caused friendship issues.

Y6 transition

Currently information on the transition to secondary school is given a couple of weeks into Y6 when applications are due. Could this be done at the end of Y5 instead? Mr West (Y6 leader) will share a date with Y5 parents in July.

Next meeting will be Friday 1st July. All parents across the school will be invited.