

Minutes 23/9/15

Hello!

Mr. McDonagh called a parent rep meeting in response to parents concern regarding Mrs. Watson's resignation.

Mr. McDonagh would like to inform parents that the school plans to appoint someone who has the same EY's expertise as Mrs. Watson, an advert has already been drawn up to go out in order to give the school ample time to appoint the right person.

Mr McDonagh would like to assure parents that an appointment of Deputy Head will not be made in haste and that until a suitable candidate is found. Currently Mrs. James is EY's team leader and she will continue to do so. Mrs. James has been lucky enough to have the guidance from Mrs. Watson to ensure that the running of EY's is exemplary, the school will, if necessary, take advice from outside EY's specialists to assist Mrs. James with the running of EY's as she teaches fulltime in year 2. It needs to be noted that Mrs. James does an outstanding job of being EY's team leader and in no doubt will continue to lead EY's in the manner in which she has done so in the future.

In addition we are very fortunate to have fantastic teachers teaching in the school, our new teachers are of a high standard and were carefully chosen by Mrs. Watson and Mr. McDonagh to ensure the quality of teaching within the school remains of a high standard.

Mr. McDonagh has assured parent reps that he will be available on the playground as much as possible to be able to answer any concerns parents may have with this matter.

Safeguarding children:

Mr. McDonagh would like to remind parents that they must not enter the school building unaccompanied by staff. Parents must always enter the building via the school office and be signed in and be issued with a visitors sticker. This ensures the safety of the children that adults in school are known to be there.

If by any means you need to go in to collect a forgotten jumper/lunch box etc at the end of the school day please send your child back in or ask their class teacher, who will be outside now at the end of the day, for assistance.

Grievances:

Please ensure all grievances you may have go through the correct channels:

Which is speak with your child's class teacher first if there is still a problem after this then further contact will be to either Infant (Mrs. James) or Junior (Mrs. Cripps) team leaders after that contact will then be made to Mr. McDonagh either in person or via email.

Class teachers are available to speak to parents both the morning and the afternoon, however, afternoon is a preferable time due to teachers needing to be in class first thing preparing for the school day. All class teachers escort the children out of the classroom and therefore are available to speak to.

Maths games:

Maths will be continued to be sent home with children as Mr. McDonagh feels that they are a fun way to get children to understand maths and gives them less pressure to “get it right!” Children in the upper end of the school have been given maths books to bring home and complete sections as instructed by their class teacher.

It was brought to Mr. McDonagh attention that at times the instructions are unclear and can hinder the game play. Mr McDonagh informed us that ideally children should play the games beforehand in class and therefore know how to play them and then show parents at home. Mr. McDonagh has said he will try and make sure this happens and will pass this on to class teachers.

Holiday:

As you are aware Briary has in the past kept holidays in line with Herne Bay High due to the large number of siblings who attend there. Unfortunately this year Dr. Owen changed the October half term second week off to the beginning of November which is not ideal for those of us who wanted to go away for a cheaper holiday. In addition we now also know that Herne Bay High has indeed kept the additional week next year as the beginning of November. At present Briary has not made a decision regarding this “extra” week.

Mr. McDonagh is going to meet with Dr. Owen to discuss whether this will remain a permanent change for future years. Hopefully Mr.McDonagh will know more in due course.

In the meantime it has been suggested to carry out a small survey at parents evening to find out parental preferences for this, however the final decision will be that of the schools and board of governors.

Puddles:

Mr. McDonagh is aware of the issues caused by the puddles within and around the school. If puddles do appear in the future then the side gate next to the new hall will be opened and used as a temporary entrance/exit into the school.

The large puddle that appears outside of the double doors near the Year 3 classrooms are being looked into and the finance manager is in the process of getting in drainage specialists to rectify the problem.

McMillan coffee morning:

This coming Monday 28/9/15 Mrs. Grange, our new school family liaison officer (FLO) will be hosting the schools Macmillan coffee morning. Please come along and support her with this. It will also be a fantastic opportunity to get to know her and chat with parents and of course raise money for a fantastic cause.

Mrs. Grange is also available on the playground Mon-Thurs to help or answer any general concerns/queries you may have.

Disabled parking:

School would like to remind you that parking in the disabled is strictly prohibited unless you hold a disabled parking permit and then you MUST only use the bay when the registered permit holder is with you in the car. If they are not with you then you must park safely and responsibly outside of the school car park.

Negative comments:

Please remember that negative comments on the parent's page are unacceptable and causes a great deal of upset. If you have grievances then you must follow the correct procedures as highlighted previously. Negative comments will be removed and persistent negative comments will result in you being removed from the group.

This is a parent page set up by parents for parents it is not run by the school so please remember to speak with your parent rep who will do their best to answer you query. Please remember that staff on the parent page are indeed working during the school day and cannot always answer your query straight away so please no tagging if a query is left unanswered, we as reps will endeavour to answer you as best we can.

Just to remind you that no tagging of staff and reps between 9pm and 7 am.

Thank you Parent Reps.

