



Wallace Fields Infant School & Nursery

Wallace Fields, Ewell, KT17 3AS
0208 394 0647 www.wfis.co.uk
office@wallace-fields-infant.surrey.sch.uk
"High achievement and success with a smile."



Class Rep Meeting: Thursday 4th November 2021

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| ATTENDEES | Jamie Hallums (Co Head Teacher) Collette Pasley (Office Administrator) Sam Matthews (Owl Class) Donna Bates (Badger Class) Claire Watson-Loach (Hedgehog Class) Angelique Panagos (Butterfly Class) Jade Dodd (Bumblebee Class) Joanna Brynteson (Big Stars) Katie Hinksman (Little Stars) Natalie Thomas (Little Stars) |
| SENT APOLOGIES | Stephanie Briggs (Kingfisher Class) Sue Kinsey-Quick (Kingfisher Class) Liz Cowell (Kingfisher Class) Rebecca James (Owl Class) Mary Studley (Hedgehog Class) Rebecca Lidster (Butterfly Class) Mai Reynolds (Hendrix's Mum) |
| DISCUSSION | Curriculum & Learning |

Welcome from Mr Hallums

Firstly, Jamie Hallums wanted to thank all Class Reps for volunteering in this role for Academic Year 2021-2022. He discussed the Role of Class Rep and our reliance on Class Reps to share information with their classes, sending reminders, fielding any questions that parents may raise about events / things that take place in school. We really appreciate the time you take to support us via this role.

It is very useful to hear feedback from class reps and if there are any specific individual problems, which parents have raised with, please do ask them to speak to the class teacher/school directly or email in to the school office for the attention of the class teacher . We appreciate that it can be quite difficult for class reps but please do remind other parents that if they have an issues which they would like addressed, we are more than happy to be contacted in order to resolve them, the school office email address is to be used (not staff's direct email addresses) and the office will forward it on to your child's class teacher

SFET

A brief update on SFET (South Farnham Educational Trust). As you are aware, we joined SFET on 1st September 2021. This was a strategic move and partnership with four schools who are very like-minded. What we are really doing is working together - we all have common issues in schools, and it is this foundation that is beneficial to us all by being part of this partnership. We are of course still working with other local schools, for example Wallace Fields Junior School and other Epsom Schools, and continue to maintain our local links. To confirm we are now part of a Multi Academy Trust (SFET).

Mr Hallums asked if there were any questions around any questions around this, no questions were raised.

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Assessment week, including new NFER tests

Year 1, Year 2, Reception and Nursery

Reception children completed a Department for Education Baseline Assessment in the first few weeks of being in school. The results are submitted to the DfE, but we actually do not get much feedback. As a result, we carry out our own baseline assessments on our children to identify strengths and identify areas where we need to work with them. We also complete a similar assessment in Nursery.

Assessment Week has just been completed for the rest of the school, and as a result we are able to begin working with children where they have any gaps in different subjects. Our Early and Late Birds programme is starting again week commencing Monday 8th November and all of the in school interventions are still going on.

For Year 1 and Year 2 this year, we are introducing a new set of assessments called NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) to support with our assessment process throughout the year.

Year 2 will do end of Year SATS assessments (which did not take place over the last 2 years due to COVID). NFER test are similar to those assessments, the big change is that we are introducing these to Year 1 in the Spring and Summer Term. The Year 1 assessments are designed for Year 1 age children in terms of language, length of tests. We believe it will really strengthen our assessments of Year 1 and Year 2 children.

Mr Hallums asked if any questions, none raised.

Parents' Evening – books home this weekend and target sheets next week

Big Stars, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parent consultations are all taking place next week (week commencing 8th November 2021). We are continuing to stay virtual with the School Cloud system for these meetings. We have received lots of feedback from parents that this was helpful as it enabled parents to participate from home and work, when they would otherwise have had difficulty getting in to school.

As you will have seen from the email alert, we are sending home Year 1 and Year 2 books for parents to see ahead of your meetings. It is an important part of your conversation with teachers to see how your child/ren are getting on with English, Power Maths and the wider curriculum in Learning Journals.

A separate email went out to ask parents to send in large bag on Friday in order for all the books to go home to ensure that if it is raining the books do not get wet or damaged. In addition, a stickers email has gone out explaining that the children have put stickers in their books identifying the piece of work that they are most proud of. We are sending home stickers to parents, where you can sit down share the book with child and celebrate their learning, and choose the pieces of work that you as parents thought was amazing. This will give you a flavour of where they are at so when you have your consultation you can have your discussion on strengths, any concerns or follow up. We do hope that this is helpful.

Target sheets will be sent out the day before your consultation in your child's book bag so you aware of targets for Reading and Maths.

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Nursery and Reception already access teacher commentary and photographs via Tapestry. Parents also have the opportunity to comment and add things to their child's profile.

For children who attend After School Clubs & KidsQuest, please ensure bags have clear name labels and these will go with the children. Class Reps were going to put his on group chat as well to ensure the message got out to all parents.

Phonics and reading – New Scheme

A workshop took place in school before half term and the presentation was shared after the event with all parents. The new scheme is very different in terms of approach – what I would say to Reception Parents / Carers is that we have done our assessments at end of last term / beginning of this week. Reception are ahead of where they were in previous years. The new scheme approach is both beneficial and supportive. We realise for some parents the big change is in terms of book coming home, and that parents feel the books are too easy, but the important thing is that the child is confident with the book and know the sounds as we said at the phonic workshop.

This is a Nationally recognised programme in line with guidance on effective way to read. In terms of quality assurance for us, we are working with a local English Hub who are coming in to observe staff and review what we are doing. They audited our provision at end of last year, and we received a good bill of health, and next week they will return to review how the new scheme is working. We will share some feedback with parents in a future newsletter.

50 'Must Reads' per year group

PTA have been amazing in their support of our Library regeneration, supporting new books through their continuous fund raising. They have funded our

- Phonics Readers that Reception, Y1 and Y2 are bringing home
- Reading for pleasure books which you can read to your children (and ask questions)
- 50 per year group 'Must Reads' – teachers are using these in story time and encouraging children to take home to share these high quality texts. The book sets cost around £250 per year group and this was funded through the Sponsored Bounce event.

Spring topic

Spring Term Topic 2022, we will be revisiting a previous topic of Ice Worlds. We are coming back to the start of our 3 year Topic Cycle, where we can now further enhance these topics. Please do keep this a surprise for the children and it is nice for them to come into their classrooms to their new topics without knowing in advance. We will be sharing lots of information in January about the topic, and sharing our **knowledge organiser** what they will be covering in these topics, which we hope is helpful to parents.

Action: Knowledge Organisers for each year group are available on our website, please [click here](#) to access.

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Governor of the Month visit 2nd November

We had our Governor of the Month visit this week on Tuesday, from Sonal Chatrath – Vice Chair of Governors. During her visit, Sonal focussed on Early Years and Safeguarding. We really value these visits which look at quality of provision and processes. Sonal will be writing a report about her visit, which will be sharing with all of our parents /carers in an upcoming newsletter.

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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| DISCUSSION | Building / Premises |
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Protective Measures update

In relation to COVID, we keep reading about cases increasing and the risk over winter months. We have no further information other than what is in press, but what I would say is that we are abiding by guidelines, ensuring plenty of ventilation in classrooms, and as far as possible it is business as normal as possible.

We no longer have bubbles in school, and are now in a position to reinstate some of our events in school. The Christmas Fair will go ahead, with some adjustments, for example, what we are trying to do is not have every stall in the school hall and more spaced out so there are fewer people in one area.



Christmas Performances will take place again; there is a Nativity going ahead for Reception and a separate performance for Year 1 and Year 2. Our plan is to invite parents/ carers in for these productions unless guidelines change. In a change to previous years we are considering ticketing the event in order to manage / limit numbers within the hall. We are finalising how this will work, but once we have a plan in place we will of course share this accordingly. We will also ask parents to wear masks to the Christmas Productions - whilst we know this is no longer a legal requirement we would appreciate this being observed for these events due to large numbers in the School Hall.

We do hope this does not disappoint, and that you will understand. As discussed some people missed the Christmas Performance dates have been issued in the newsletter. For your convenience here are the dates.

New Breakout Space

You will have noticed our new Bright blue cabin when you all arrived back to school on Monday. We had a few comments about the colour – so let us elaborate a little on that!

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The chicken coop is about to be refreshed with a nice white coat of paint, then you have lovely blue log cabin (just waiting for its bunting), which is waiting to be joined by our super red reading bus! Red, white and blue!

We are excited to have these wonderful outdoor spaces for teaching and learning where small groups of children can go for reading session and in school intervention work.

Forest school area

In addition to the above, we have reallocated our Octoclassroom in to the corner of our woodland area to support our forest school programme. This has some super new benches, which again have been provided by the PTA, and Mr Danny Cliffe, HTLA is finishing his forest school training – so in January we will be starting up our forest school learning initiative. How amazing will that be!

Plan for Library Bus

Our reading bus is due to arrive in 2 – 3 weeks. I was excited to see this on the M4 (total coincidence) as I was travelling to Wales during half term. It has been painted and was on its way back for final refurbishment.

We cannot wait to start using all our exciting new areas with the children!

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| DISCUSSION | Communications |
| Staffing – leavers and new appointments | |
| We are pleased to advise that we have a stable staffing at moment. | |

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| DISCUSSION | Safeguarding our children |
| Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) consultation | |
| <p>We have shared our RSE consultation recently with our parents / carers. This is fairly straightforward at infant level. Teaching is all about relationships, friendships and inappropriate / appropriate touch etc. and also through the science curriculum teaching the scientific words for parts of the body. Concerns that have been reported in the press are more around what is covered for older pupils but for us here at infant level there appear to be no concerns from parents. We had 1 response to date in praise of the coverage within the curriculum. We continue develop a strong safeguarding culture at the school supporting children to have healthy relationships.</p> <p>Parents may have heard about the increased focus on historical abuse at the national level, which is also a focus for OFSTED. Occasionally you hear comments like ‘it doesn’t apply to infant age children’, however this is not the case. It is important to state that it is important to begin discussion around this subject at an early age at an age appropriate level. If issues ever arise, it is important that they are addressed sensitively and that we listen to children and respond if they say something has happened. We always work with parents if an issue arises so they are fully aware.</p> | |

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E-safety audit

Keeping children safe online – we do this in school on a regular basis and it is important that parents are aware of the current issues as with technology things change, apps change, and current games change. See our [e-safety pages on the website](#). Once we complete our audit, we will share the results with parents. We have run workshops for parents – we may do a virtual one / or on site – to give out some updated information to parents.

| DISCUSSION | WFIS Community |
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Christmas Productions – Big Stars, Reception, Key Stage 1 Performances

These are going ahead as outlined earlier in the discussions. .

Christmas Fair

This is going ahead and has always been a fantastic event. This year instead of the hampers, there is an Advent Calendar Raffle with people donating all sorts of calendars – this is coming up soon – so do buy your raffle tickets.

The PTA have already run some great events this year and have some brilliant events planned for Spring and Summer. We are all very much looking forward to the PTA Fireworks!

The PTA have some spare tickets available – for volunteers, so if you can help please do contact them, as they have some gaps they need to fill, if you can help please contact Kelly Tebbs or Jade Dodd.

Maliha Carey will be in touch with school shortly to discuss Christmas Fair and Class Stalls.

Birthdays – Amazon Wishlist

If parents would like to celebrate their child's birthday with rest of class – please share a book via Amazon Wishlist – the book is then class and teacher will read with the children as well. Addition of some high quality reading material for class via Amazon Whislist please click [here](#).

| DISCUSSION | AOB |
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AOB

Questions raised by Class Reps on behalf of Parents

- 1) Reading meeting, parents would like to have more feedback from teachers each week. Parents would just like to know how their child is getting on – so that they can support better at home.**

Parent consultation meetings with your child's class teacher will be an opportunity to discuss this next week.

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We are providing a weekly sticker outlining the sounds that children are learning that week. We will look at how we can share next step targets more regularly with parents.

- 2) Y1 – yellow spelling / purple book, parents would like a little bit of written guidance what they could do at home.**

Mr Hallums will ask Y1 teachers to provide some further ideas for parents if they want to do more at home.

- 3) Emails from school – feel there are many communications from school. Is there a way we can head these up in the subject if they are ‘action required / verses information’**

Mr Hallums advised we do try to limit emails. As a parent himself he recognises that sometimes there is a lot of information to be shared with parents. Apologies if this is not concise enough, but it is a busy school with lots taking place and our parents like to be kept informed.

Class Reps stated that they often give reminders to other parents on the WhatsApp groups. Mr Hallums thanked them as many parents will find this helpful. We are mindful of trying not to bombard, but sometimes people miss things in the newsletter so we send reminders. It is hard to meet everyone’s needs sometimes, so thank you class reps for filtering out key messages - it is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your time. The minutes of this meeting will be sent out via the newsletter. Have a good parent consultation next week with your class teacher and enjoy the new books coming home!

Next Meeting: Schedule of meetings for the remainder of this academic year will be issued shortly

Thank you to all Class Parent Rep’s for their input and support

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