



Academy Council Minutes – 15 February 2024

Attendees

Claire Willis (CW), Principal

Rachel Parker, Operations Manager of the Lunchtime Company

Claire Kalinowska (CK) academy member and minute taker, Clair Tramontini (CT) academy member, Jo Barber (JB) academy member.

Parents/carers representation

No-one joined the meeting online.

1) Lunchtime Co update from Rachel Parker

Jacket potatoes will now have a tuna topping option.

Sandwiches will soon have a daily offering of cheese, ham or tuna.

Rachel is working with the team to find ways to offer pasta daily, alongside jacket potatoes, working with the existing on site facilities.

After the half term break the children will have the option of ice cream on Mondays.

27th February will be a parent/carers taster session. This will be at 2.45pm, offering samples of meat and vegetarian dishes from the menu.

7th March a Harry Potter themed lunch for World Book Day.

The school has no permanent full time chef, despite an ongoing recruitment campaign. Sophia is filling the position from an agency 4 days a week with Sean (their mobile chef) filling in on Fridays.

I provided feedback on the problems experienced on pancake day- some children missing out, dry burritos and small/burnt jacket potatoes.

Although there were enough pancakes provided, unfortunately some children were allowed to help themselves and took more than one, meaning that later sittings missed out. This is hopefully a learning point for the kitchen staff for the future.

Rachel will give feedback about the burrito to the kitchen staff. She explained that if the jacket potatoes are small, children should be offered an extra half.

CW told us that there is always ample food and any surplus is offered to the children for second helpings. Staff will go into the playground to let the children know. If your child has told you that they haven't eaten, please ask them if they mentioned this to an adult. None of the children should be going hungry.

Rachel has said that detailed feedback is welcome and she will arrange for a lady called Maria to visit, she speaks to the children to ask about their experience.

All who attended the meeting were offered a school meal. The display was colourful and enticing and the food was good.

2) Play area

CK asked why the wooded play area is not in use. CW explained that it is out of bounds over the winter as it gets quite muddy. Prior to that foxes had built their earths there and it was deemed a safety risk to the children. The foxes were caught humanely and re-homed. Then it was discovered that two endangered species- badgers and peregrine falcons had both made homes in the same patch. Both have also been caught and rehomed under legal guidelines. Although the animals are no longer there, the ground is uneven and unsafe due to the various burrowing activities. CW said that the area is due to be made safer, as is removing the tyres which have rotted. Once this work has been done, the children will have access again.

3) Left handed writers

A couple of parents had mentioned that their left handed child has been sat next to a right handed child, leading to their arms getting in each other's way. CW explained that the left handed child should be sat on the left hand of the table to prevent this, she will send a reminder to teachers. If this is a problem for your child, please mention it to their class teacher.

4) Dyslexia awareness and screening

A couple of parents have mentioned that they suspect their child may have dyslexia and wish to know how to get support or screening for the condition.

CW explained that if either the parent/carer or teacher has suspicions they can request a meeting with the SENCO to discuss this further. Dyslexia can be indicated by the way a child writes, getting letters mixed up or back to front, spelling problems, how they communicate and the confidence they show in reading.

Parents can discuss this with the class teacher or contact Sara Johnson the SENCo. Murrayfield buys into the GL programme, which includes a dyslexia tendencies screening tool. This is a 40 minute computer programme that the child completes. The diagnostic test can only be done by qualified individuals on a private basis (outside of school) and needs to be funded by family.

Teachers have binders providing strategies to help pupils who show possible additional needs, for example- dyslexia, ADHD, autism or social and emotional needs.

5) Thinking Day and World Book Day

These have been mentioned by parents on the Facebook group.

CW said that Thinking Day (22nd Feb an international day marked by the Girl Guiding association) is over the half term break. If those involved want to do something they can speak to CW or explain to others what they did on the day.

World Book day is the 7th March (this is a day created by UNESCO to celebrate and encourage the pleasure of books and reading). Murrayfield do not have a dress up day as they have found that this can cause dysregulation with the pupils, as well as putting unnecessary financial pressure on parents/carers.

Instead the school help the children celebrate reading and an enjoyment of books by;

Adults reading aloud excerpts from their favourite book in assembly;

Older children are encouraged to read to the younger pupils;

Special story sessions.

Any other business

CT asked if the school would be involved in the government's new dental scheme where dental teams are sent into schools. CW says that there have been no guidelines issued by the Department for Education. However, Murrayfield is already part of a scheme where children in reception and nursery are spoken to about oral hygiene and receive toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Parking - Cones and banners are helping, but persistent drivers still park unsafely. JB, KC and CK to meet to discuss further and arrange a petition.

Year 6 will be putting on a show of Bugsy Malone. There will be day and evening performances. 27th June

The whole school will hold an outdoor summer concert on the 11th July. (JB, KC and CK have offered to help)

There will be a Trust sports day for years 5 and 6 on 15th July, including the London schools.

The DfE have confirmed that Year 2 SATs are now optional (CW)

Year 6 SATs start 13th May (CW)