

## **Notes from Parents' Forum**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### **Parking on zig zags**

Reps report that some members of the parent body are still parking on the zig zags. A discussion was had about metal folding boards that can be displayed on the zig zags to deter people parking. The PA will look into purchasing some for the school.

### **IXL**

Parents asked again about whether the school was going to renew its subscription to IXL. Mrs Griffiths referred the parents to the March forum notes which detailed that the school has decided to spend the £900 membership cost in other ways which will have more impact on the teaching of maths.

Families are still able to purchase a membership with IXL privately. RBKC libraries offer membership of IXL if you sign up.

### **Reception Transition**

A parent raised the issue of the staggered start for Reception's new intake. Mrs Griffiths will meet any parent whose circumstances make this difficult, in order to reach a solution.

### **Wet play**

A parent asked whether the teachers could provide craft activities for the children to complete during wet play sessions rather than watching a TV programme. Mrs Griffiths explained that the children were able to do puzzles or watch an educational programme. Crafts are not practical for wet break, since the teachers already spend break times preparing for the next lesson. We have been unfortunate with the number of wet breaks this month, as they usually happen rarely.

### **First Holy Communion**

Parents raised the issue of whether boys could wear suits for First Holy Communion and whether boys and girls could sit in mixed rows. Mrs Griffiths explained that the procedures for First Holy Communion will be reviewed next year, and that all suggestions will be considered.

### **Rucksacks in Year 2**

Parents raised the school's recent reminder that rucksacks were allowed in Year 3 only. Mrs Griffiths explained that this had always been the case in the school uniform policy, but over the past few years Year 2 children had begun to have rucksacks despite this. From September the school will be enforcing the rule more strictly. Children can still bring their change of clothes for ballet or sport in PE bags. Any cycle helmets can be hung on pegs. Mrs Griffiths will enquire with the uniform shop whether poppers can be used for book bags instead of Velcro.

### **Lamda**

Parents requested whether the school would consider a Lamda club like they have in another local school. Mrs Griffiths has already met with the Lamda teacher from the other school, but they were only able to teach during the school day. Parents will look into other providers.

### **CAT tests**

Parents asked whether the school could introduce CAT tests since they do them in Year 7 at some local secondary schools, and children would be better prepared for them if they did them at primary school. Mrs Griffiths explained that the school will not be introducing CAT tests. The children at our school already take part in many learning opportunities which allow them to develop their cognitive ability and reasoning skills. Testing children unnecessarily is not beneficial.

### **Seating**

Parents asked whether classrooms could be organised so that the children sit in rows. Mrs Griffiths explained that the children only sit in rows at the end of Year 6, prior to their statutory examinations. Sitting in groups in order to learn collaboratively is an important part of how the children develop at our school, and is not something we wish to change.

### **Food charity**

A parent explained that there is a charity which offers to support schools in helping pupils understand where their food comes from, why eating widely is important, but also why we can sometimes find different tastes and textures unappealing. The parent will give more information to Mrs Griffiths in due course.

### **Nuts**

Parents requested that a detailed letter be sent home to parents with a list of some of the foods that should not be brought into a nut free school. Mrs Griffiths will follow up in a newsletter.

### **Confession**

Parents requested that confessions could be heard in school. Mrs Griffiths explained that Fr Edward recently visited to hear confessions.

### **School buddy**

A parent requested that a 'name' be given to school buddies when children join further up the school, similar to the 'Owl and Owlet' scheme in Reception class. Mrs Griffiths will take the suggestion back to the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Sports tournaments**

A parent requested that notice was given further in advance for sports tournaments so that children could practise. Mrs Griffiths explained that teams are not always chosen very far in advance, but parents will be told as soon as possible.

### **Tests in advance**

A parent requested that notice was given further in advance for end of term tests. Mrs Griffiths explained that the children should not need to prepare too far in advance for tests, but that homework may be set a few days in advance to brush up on certain skills in preparation.