

Overdale Junior School Parents' Forum
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday 21 January 2015

Present: L Marsden (LM), V Ball (VB), Y Sensier (YS), Mrs K Cooper (KC, staff)

Minutes prepared by KC.

1. Whole School Food Policy

KC presented the updated policy which has recently been reviewed in consultation with our food nutrition expert from the Leicestershire Nutrition and Dietetic Service. Attention was drawn to the government's School Food Plan which guides the provision of all food in school. KC mentioned that the School Council are going on a visit to the DfE's Cookery Bus next week to give children a greater understanding of school meals and help promote and improve school dinners here in school.

The policy also includes information with regard to nuts in school. The school aims to be a nut-free environment due to a number of children suffering from severe, potentially fatal nut allergies. No nuts should be brought into school, including nuts in food snacks (such as cereal bars) or packed lunches (eg peanut butter spread). KC reported that new notices about nuts in school have been put up in the dining hall and around school. In addition, parents are encouraged to check ingredients generally when sending food in for school parties or other special occasions.

The parents present agreed this was the best approach, rather than lifting the ban on nuts in school, compromising the health and well being of some pupils with allergies. Some parents praised the variety of foods on offer for school dinners and said their children had asked for things like curry and salmon bites at home after tasting them in school. Other comments included running out of puddings at lunchtime.

2. School Dinner Survey

Parents present looked at the proposed School Dinner Survey which is due to go out to children and parents around half term. They made several suggestions regarding the wording of questions. They suggested the survey should go out to parents of all children who have previously had or are still having school dinners. It was agreed the survey should be anonymous (giving only the child's year group), but parents could include personal details where they have specific queries.

VB suggested that parents could be invited to visit children having lunch in the dining hall on a couple of dates so they had a better idea of school dining arrangements. Pictures could also be put on the website for those that cannot attend.

Weekly food menus are usually displayed in the dining hall for parents and children to see. Parents liked the idea of themed Fridays for school dinners.

LM asked if it might be possible to offer more shaded areas for dining outside during the summer months. Some picnic tables are under tree shade. The school is investigating putting up parasols or perhaps a sail shade.

3. AOB

YS asked about extracurricular clubs at lunchtime and after school. Information letters about free and paid for sessions are generally sent home or available from the school office. Some details can be found on the school website.

Another question was raised about Y4 Homework. Children should stick information sheets in their red homework book, although the maths practise sheets are separate as these come from the maths teacher.

4. Date and time of the next meeting

Informal drop-in session on Tuesday 10 March from 3.30-5pm, to coincide with Parents' Evening in school.