

School Council EIFA - 31 March 2015

Mme Dehon opens the meeting at 5:05 PM.

1) School calendar and timetable

Following a survey of the parents, the majority preferred the new timetable, which will be as follows:

8:40 am to 3:15 pm from Monday to Thursday

8:40 am to 3:30 pm on Friday

This is subject to approval by the Embassy; their answer is due by 9 April.

After-school clubs will take place from 3:30 pm to 4:30 am. After-school care or homework club will then be available until 5 pm for children whose parents request it.

Pupils will start the new school year on 3 September 2015. Teachers will be back at school on 27 August.

The school year will end on 1 July 2016.

School holidays:

From 19/10 to 30/10/15

From 21/12 to 01/01/16

From 15/02 to 19/02/16

From 25/03 to 08/04/16

From 02/05 to 06/05/16

Bank Holiday on 30/05/16

Subject to approval by the embassy.

There will be 909 teaching hours over 175 days.

2) School Reports

School reports will be handed over to the pupils on Wednesday 1 April. They will have to be signed and returned to the teacher on the first day of school after the holidays.

Online school reports are not an option at the moment as no solution has been implemented yet to input the parents' signature.

3) PE Kit

Due to several issues with our current supplier, we have appointed another one, named Schooltrends.

The style will be different as well.

The PE kit will have new colours: purple windcheater and black sweatpants. Backpacks with the school logo will come in two different formats.

Orders will be placed online; parents will receive the link in August.

Various accessories in the school colours will also be on offer, including an EIFA winter jacket.

Ideally, all pupils should have the new PE kit at the start of the new school year, but it won't be compulsory until after the fall holidays.

It is much easier to spot the children in the park when they are all wearing the same uniform.

4) Pupil representatives

The pupils requested a pet to look after in the classroom. The request was rejected.

The school uniform issue has been raised again by several children.

There is a request for more leisure books in the library. The school is going to place an order for more books.

In this matter, we would like to remind everyone that far too many books are getting lost. Families will receive a fine to pay for lost books. Teachers will be happy to answer any questions from parents regarding the library's schedule and policy.

On how the children choose their books: the teachers check that the books chosen are appropriate.

Please note that pupils are entitled to one leisure book per week.

5) After-school Clubs:

Please remind parents to check the age requirements before enrolling their child in a club.

The Mandarin club has been cancelled, as there were only 2 enrolments. There were discipline issues last year in this particular club, however this year everything went well in this regard.

We will offer this club again next September.

Zumba: Due to health issues, Mme Ginet Jones won't be able to continue this club.

A Lego club is planned to start in September.

6) Schools trips:

27 April: Chiltern Open air Museum for CE1 and CE2.

7 May: British Museum for CE2.

18 May: Handel House for CM1 and CM2.

22 April: Imperial War Museum for CM2.

30 April: Race against Hunger information day

14 May: Race against Hunger

8 May: International Day

Between the 15th and 18th June, the CE2 and CM2 pupils will take part in the French schools sports week in Fulham. The school will organise buses to drive them there. There will be 5 different contests. Each team will be made up of players from 2 different schools.

20 June: Sports Day

19 June: Cocktail for staff and EIFA Parents active members as a thank you for their hard work within the school. Partners welcome.

14 and 15 May: Exhibition with the children's work in the school hall. This event is part of the inter-school project called « Regards Croisés sur Londres ». The other schools will organise open days within the same project.

2 June: GS are going to the Zoo.

A school trip to Kingston Upon Thames will be scheduled as well.

CE1 and CE2 will also have another school trip before the end of the school year.

As planned, CM1 and CM2 will participate in the Rubens project in the first term of the next school year. They will travel to Belgium on a 5-day trip organised around various themes such as art, culture, Antwerp and its Flemish paintings, the history of the EEC. Food and accommodation costs should be about £250, plus train tickets.

7) Holiday Club

We don't have enough children enrolled for the Easter Holiday. The activities planned are nature outings, a picnic day and one day at the Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground.

Deadlines must be respected for obvious reasons: we have to book the trips in advance and plan the right number of supervisors.

Therefore, we will set an earlier deadline than usual for the July Holiday Club bookings. This club will take place from 1st to 10th July.

If we don't have enough enrolments by the set deadline, this club will be cancelled.

8) School fees:

Discounts will be offered as of September.

The sibling discount will be automatically deducted from your invoices (from 5% to 15% up to 3 children).

Current EIFA CM2 pupils enrolling into EIFA 6ème will get a discount.

Fees paid in one full payment will lead to a 5% discount.

The canteen fees are fixed and can't be subject to any discount. These fees are increasing by 50p per meal for the next school year.

Vouchers can be used to pay for clubs or school fees.

All running costs have increased: business insurance, electricity, and the business rates. Staff salaries account for 80% of the costs.

The same company is running the Primary school and the Secondary school, but the accounts are managed separately. IB costs are assigned to the Secondary budget.

The running costs for both buildings are also separately managed.

Since we will be ordering a greater volume of school material, we will benefit from lower prices.

French Consulate Scholarships may also be obtained for French nationals.

9) Transfers:

Transfers have always been authorised when they were proven to be necessary. We cannot guarantee a school place at CFBL. A selection of offers is available after CM2.

10) Swimming pool:

Rumours are circulating, doubting the quality of the pool water. The water is tested every day and the results of those tests are checked by independent organisations. The floors are bleach-cleaned several times per day. It nevertheless remains a public pool.

Mme Dehon will send a clear report on the swimming pool hygiene policy and its accreditation.

Children not attending swimming lessons must provide a medical certificate. It is an old swimming pool, a bit out-dated maybe, but its cleanliness can't be questioned.

The children complained last year about the water temperature in the other swimming pool. Porchester Centre is very pleasant, due to its additional small pool. The staff is very competent and the instructors provide a swimming lesson of a high standard.

The children may wear a wetsuit if they wish.

We are intensively looking for sports halls. Prices are high and availability is scarce.

11) Class organisation

We don't have enough visibility at present to know exactly how many and which classes are going to open next September. Some classes will be split into 2 reduced-sized classes.

The deadline for parents to unregister their children is 3rd April.

In the CP/CE1 class:

- The CP group met its objectives as the class level suited their skills. It supported their learning and they have made progress and are secure in their abilities. The gap between both CP classes has narrowed.
- The CE1 group performed well. The children did a lot of work in common with the other CE1. There was no gap between the classes. All pupils' English level has increased consistently.
- The CP/CE1 class won't be continued next year. Its educational outcome was very positive.

25% of the CM2 are going into British schools including some ranked highly in the UK league tables. Head teachers of London prep schools would like to meet us to find out more information about our curriculum and school system.

We will publish this information on the website.

Parents have expressed some concern about the children's achievement level in general.

There will be a common evaluation for all the CM2 in the London schools in May.

We are also happy to give parents their children's « Reading Age ».

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm.