



'Be Ready, Be Respectful Be Safe 'To believe, achieve, succeed together'

A Parent Forum is a partnership between parents and the school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvement.



The aims of the Parent Forum:

- to work together to improve the education provided for our children
- to share information, knowledge and skills
- to meet in a mutually supportive environment
- to further improve communications between parents/carer/ staff/governor

MINUTES - MONDAY 20th MARCH 2023 – 2:15pm

Welcome– Mr Snell (chn in y1 & 3), Mrs Shah (ch in y2), Mrs Fox (chn in y1,3 & 4) and Ms Ashton (ch in y3) were all in attendance along with Mrs Smith –Headteacher

Apologies – Mrs Page (chn in Y1 & 5), Mrs Fordjour (chn in R & 2), Mrs Worrod (ch in Y4)

Purpose and format of a Parent Forum – went through how the meetings will work and intended outcomes for what we all wish to achieve.

Questionnaire feedback and responses/ changes made so far – discussed the responses received in general terms and focused some of the key areas picked up on from the Questionnaire in Jan. SS explained movement and changes to these areas so far and parents added their thoughts to these areas too from a range of parents.

MFL – SS discussed the new scheme purchased for this and explained French was the chosen language and this was now being taught in Year 3/4. It had also been agreed that it would be taught two terms out of the three and Yr 5/6 would pick it up again in the summer term. One parent said they had noticed their children counting in French at home and were reported as enjoying the lessons.

Curriculum evenings – SS had asked for the best timings on this in the questionnaire and had a very mixed response! This term focus had been on Sat's meetings which were held for both y2 and y6 as well as a residential meeting for Year 5/6. A further meeting for Year 3/4 will be planned for after Easter. Also, feedback had been received about the hybrid model of online and f2f combined being popular – something to consider as we move forwards with these.

Action: SS to organize curriculum events for parents in the Summer Term.

Communication – website and letters/information

SS showed the website and some key features on there to help parents locate things. Also discussed any improvements seen in comms which all agreed was improved. Discussed the format of the newsletter not being so friendly for phones.

Action SS to redesign and use more boxes over 2 pages to share information each week. SS still needs to find a photographer for updating pictures on website and in prospectus.

Trips/Experiences and Clubs

Much positive feedback from this aspect and all loving the trips and experiences being made available. Discussed the clubs not being high in take up and SS felt that as it was being reintroduced it may take time to pick up. Many agreed but also shared that many children do out of school clubs that may coincide as well as the factor of S4A charging from 3.15pm not 4pm. Also considering other clubs e.g Dancing Latin and ballroom, a local company already facilitating session in the early evening

but with little take up– maybe use village hall and have a walking bus from school. SS has also contacted Hotshots, a basketball company to come and run a club. One parent highlighted it was Soccer Aid in June and UNICEF had some challenges for children, to link to this to do in school. SS felt this was certainly an area we could consider getting involved in. Also it was highlighted that perhaps the wording on the letter for trips could be more supportive for those who were struggling to pay.

UPDATE – SS spoke to S4A and they have changed their payment plans accordingly having a slot starting at 4pm now. This wasn't in place for the first week of the clubs but was then after that available.

ACTION Share summer club term offer; contact dance group.

Homework this was shared as overall a positive although still a little unknown with the gallery day aspect still to happen and the grid and more time was needed before further discussion could take place (keep as an agenda item).

Discussion around whether too much choice particularly for younger children as well as maybe a slightly greater range particularly of less involved activities.

SS to share this feedback to teachers for next terms grid. It was differentiated throughout classes groups for amounts to show some progression. Ed Shed was also discussed and other than the online aspect for some being too much, as screen time is limited/not used and the use of the timer on the screen it was also positively received. It had also highlighted some huge competitiveness in the children!

Discussed Parents evening and book looks Much positive feedback from parents evening in its format including, firm timings, books after and the online booking system being a superb tool, but that the appointments were too short. This is a standard amount of time in primary schools and SS since went back to teachers to ask about previous schools and all agreed 10mins was all that was ever given. It does need to be balanced against parents feeling they need longer and teacher wellbeing and expectations. For example, an extra 2 minutes per child for a class of 30 would be an additional hour in what is already a long session. There was discussion about how there had been limited parents' evenings in previous years including through Covid where reports were provided instead and perhaps some of the anxiety about the length of time stems from this and not having them. Also suggested later slots available. SS felt that 5-7.30pm was offering later option. Book looks are also available termly for parents to look at books and these are at different times of the day (before/after school) to give options. These have been published for the summer term which hopefully gives people opportunity to know in advance and plan accordingly. These were also a positive addition to the calendar.

Action: SS think about further ways to share how parents can support and where chn are – start with a letter after Easter following assessments.

Playtime and fruit purchase and consumption

We discussed we had slightly shortened play to allow for relaxing 5-10 minutes in class after to eat fruit, have a good drink and be mindful. This was working well and allowed chn the opportunity to get fruit. As KS2 do not get Fruit for free like EYFS and KS1 SS wondered about purchasing additional fruit as a school and charging a sum per term approx. £10 so that children could have fruit from school. Many felt this was a positive step. Suggestion that PTFA may be able to support this and SS also felt Sport premium may be able to subsidize under the umbrella of healthy lifestyle choices.

Action SS enquire about the additional costs of fruit for KS2 and go from there.

Points from others that were brought were discussed (some of these were brought up as we discussed items throughout the meeting)

- Christmas shows and children performing live to an audience – children in y2 and 3 have yet to 'perform' in front of a live audience. Something for school to bear in mind.
- Drop off and collections – drop off seems to be very well received as well as pick up. Request for gates to be more prompt in opening as at times, which are becoming more regular, it can be a few minutes late. Also leading to concerns of queues at the top gate being on the road. One parent commented that perhaps some of the parent networking has been lost due to this style of start. Thinking of ways particularly for when new parents join to encourage the networking which in turn will support the school.
- Parking – this is always an issue and not much worse than normal but just something to be mindful of.
- Reading incl chn being heard 1:1 reading volunteers – Only two classes have parent volunteers currently and some parents are concerned that children aren't heard read enough. SS explained



'To believe, to achieve, to succeed together'

children will be reading every day and regularly this will be with an adult as part of Guided Reading. There isn't capacity to hear children 1:1. Suggestions to re-promote parents volunteering. One parent volunteered at the meeting for Beech. Still need another for Sycamore (ideally not a parent from Sycamore).

- Also, discussion around independence in y3 with reading books and changing them as well as quizzing. SS explained quizzing is definitely part of the weekly timetable in any case so should always be opportunity but something to discuss further with Sycamore staff team. It is a trickier age moving from Ks1 – 2 where the expectations surrounding independence is increased.
- Coffee van – tying into the drop off discussion a suggestion to try and source a company with a coffee van for this time was felt as a possible idea - SS also felt we should and could utilise the Village hall car park more as a useful space for something such as that!
- More notice for celebration assembly – SS aims to get this out by Thurs lunchtime each week to ensure teachers and staff have maximum time for selection balanced against parents having enough notice. It was commented it is much improved but there will always be people who want more notice.
- More information on how well the children are doing and what parents can do at home to support – this is an area to work on – tied into Parents evening and book look conversation. Curriculum evenings will support some of this too. SS also hopeful that a letter each term can go home with the current assessments completed information – to think about.

The Library/Burrow area was discussed and a plan to sort, reorganize and make use of the space better and more effectively. Working party of parents to be formed to support this. Looking into costs of a library system which will allow children to get books out and return them.

Action: SS Communicate this idea out with a meeting date and time. Find quotes for costs for management system for library.

Future discussion points/areas to explore – date of next meeting **15th May 2.15pm** – continue with areas explored today. SS will share school updates as well as take any further feedback from parents.