

Parent Forum meeting – 27th May 2021

Attendees:

Caitlin Teague (Chair), Steve Snelson, Rachel Watts, Kate Chapman, Susie Murtagh, Gemma Burgess, Nicola Hall, Steve Orton, Katherine Spiers, Leanne Palmer, Suzanne Britton, Claire Williams

1. Summary of the year

Steve S gave a brief summary of the year from the school's perspective – all present agreed that it was a great relief the school has been open as much as it has and had very little issues with isolation of staff and children. Steve S reiterated that all current and future guidance comes from the Trust so they were unsure at present the impact on events such as sports day and transition arrangements.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING – due to restrictions being extended, sports days will take place in class bubbles with limited number of parents present.

Transition will also keep children in existing bubble groups, allowing all to have some time with new teachers. Children who are not changing departments will remain with existing teachers where possible.

2. Uniform

In light of uniform changes at the Pastures school, parents present were asked their opinion on a change to shirts and ties as uniform, rather than polo shirts. The response was no! Parents did not feel the need for such 'smart' uniform at primary school.

Rachel also presented a suggestion for PE days from next academic year – that all years come to school in PE kits on the relevant day and that the PE uniform changes slightly to incorporate a school branded red hoody.

There were concerns that this would end up not looking particularly smart all day for other lessons and that there may be a prohibitive cost to some in having to buy a logo'd top. There was also a concern that this left younger children particularly, with no spare clothes at school in case of accidents.

Parents were of the opinion that the existing requirements for PE ought to be followed more strictly, as some concerns were mentioned of if non logo tops were deemed ok, some might 'push' the rules too far – it was raised that there will always be 'rule breakers' regardless and so this idea was left with the school to have some more thoughts about. Steve S thanked the parents for their input.

3. Communication

Steve asked for feedback on the school's communications to parents – it was reported:

- 1) General information and information from the Trust and Senior Leadership Team has been good
- 2) Class teachers were less forthcoming with information (eg. around postcards) but were open to requests when asked

Parents also mentioned that there could have been more information in March about how the children had settled back in after closures and some wanted more information on the curriculum.

4. Clubs provision

Clubs have proved popular as usual and the school are planning to increase the choices that are on offer in the future.

Holiday clubs are still pending – the school have requested funding for them to ensure they are cost effective but are still waiting to hear if it has been awarded.

5. Parent questions

Are the school going to start offering plated hot dinners again?

Yes – there have been concerns about younger children getting used to eating with their hands and so the aim is to reintroduce ‘proper’ meals as soon as they are able to (this may be tied into ongoing restrictions). It was noted that the provision of dietary needs had not gone well during this year.

After school club – can the food offerings be looked at? Sometimes is not very much, other times more substantial.

Susie confirmed that the arrangements for food would be reassessed, including the time offered as this doesn't always work well with all the children

After school club – can Ipads be available for homework?

Covid has meant shared use of ipads has had to be limited but this can be looked at as a possibility

Is there a possibility that shorter sessions could be offered at After School Club?

This is unlikely – it is very difficult to administer.

Can the current year 2 join the Teddies on Tour trip next year?

Steve S reported that it is extremely difficult to book trips at the moment but this suggestion can be held for the future when things may be clearer in terms of planning.

A lock on the door in the girl's 4/5 toilets has been broken for some time

This will be addressed.

The slabs on the path into school past the office are very uneven and are causing trip accidents

The school have bid (again) for funding to tarmac the paths and will find out soon if they have been successful.

What are the plans for leaving activities for year 6?

This is guidance dependent, but the school is trying to offer as much as is 'normal' as possible.

UPDATED FOLLOWING MEETING – as restrictions were extended, the end of year performance will be recorded and shared with parents, sports day as before. Plans for Leavers Assembly tbc.

6. Any other business

There was no other business. Date of next meeting tbc (Autumn term)