

Parent Forum Minutes Friday 20th May 2016 - Junior Site

Present: Mr Tomson Mrs Ghouse (F) Mrs Kirkwood (4)
Mrs Arnott Mrs Trew (1), Mrs Siddall (5),
Mrs Goodson Mrs Timman (6)
(2),
Mrs Clayton
Mrs Kirkwood (4),

Welcome to Mrs Arnott as a staff governor
Apologies: Mrs Stevenson, Mr Mole, Mrs Clayton

Points Discussed

1. **Future Parent Workshops** Parent workshops have been very successful this year and the school is keen to plan ahead for next year. Suggestions requested for future topics. Agreed that a workshop on resilience and learning to fail successfully would be appreciated. No plans to record workshops at present. The school realises there will be the need to repeat workshops for new parents each year.
2. **Academisation Developments** It has been reported in the news that all schools will have to be academised by 2020 however the government have now said that schools will no longer be forced into this decision. The school stresses that it is in no rush to make a decision and will only go to academies if they feel there is better support to be found for pupils, parents and staff through a different umbrella organisation such as a diocese or secondary school than can be found at present through the local council. This form of academisation involves a number of schools coming together in a multi-academy trust for the benefit of all and is not the same as forced academisation of failing schools as you may have seen in the news.
3. **Transition Process for Parents between the infant and Junior Sites (year 2 to Year 3)** Parent forum discussed the need for an open session or a walk around the Junior site for Year 2 parents who may not have had the opportunity to visit as yet. In addition the school is planning its usual programme of visits for pupils and induction for parents to ensure the transition is easy for all.
4. **Water Bottles on the Infant Site** Y2 raised concerns over the introduction of water bottles to the infant site as the information regarding the cleaning of these bottles was not felt to be given in a timely manner. Although it is clear that this was done with the best of intentions to provide adequate hydration for all pupils there had been many concerns. Firstly the children were filling these from taps in the toilet block and secondly that there was the possibility for spread of infection. The parents expressed their disappointment over the way the introduction of the water bottles was handled. There was much discussion over the way water bottles could be provided and how they should be cleaned. Mr Tomson agreed that the school would review and make a response.
5. **Out of School Sports Trips** Y2 parents expressed concerns over the safety of pupils at recent sports events. There was a feeling that the organisation of these events was rushed and parents felt the children were not properly marshalled whilst at the events nor transported in a safe manner to and from the events. The parents would welcome a review of the current process in place for these events. Mr Tomson has agreed to investigate further and respond.
6. **MyMaths** There has been unanimous support for the introduction of MyMaths and parents are very pleased with this. Mr Tomson was keen to stress that MyMaths should be supplementary to the learning log and should not replace other homework.
7. **After-school clubs** As agreed at a previous parent forum after school clubs were announced and arranged prior to the start of this term. This was seen to be very helpful to parents.
8. **New Bus Provider** The school has now had over 2 weeks without a school bus incident and is very pleased with their new provider.

9. **Minecraft at golden time** One parent has raised concern over the use of Minecraft at golden time. To clarify, golden time occurs on the junior site once a week and for 30 minutes. The option to play Minecraft on the tablets rotates around the classes on a weekly basis so the maximum amount of time any child can spend on the game is thirty minutes once a month. Golden time is used as a reward and is supposed to be something the children would enjoy.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th July, 9am on the infant site

ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

**School to arrange opportunity for Y2 parents to visit the Junior Site.
Mr Tomson to respond on the issues of water bottles and off-site sports events.**

Updated Response:

Water bottles

Prior to this Parent Forum meeting, two parents contacted the school regarding their concern over the new provision and arrangements. We have confirmed that the bottles provided are BPA safe and reviewed the cleaning and refilling procedures as a result.

We now wish to reassure parents that we will be ensuring that the same lid and bottle will now be individually named. If there are parents who would still prefer to manage their own water bottle arrangements, those children may take the school-provided bottles home but it is imperative that it is returned on a daily basis. Staff will continue to clean and refill all bottles left in school.

We apologise if you feel the recent changes have not been communicated effectively - our intention was to ensure fresh water for all children on a daily basis without the difficulties staff regularly have to deal with due to broken or forgotten bottles. These arrangements will continue on the Infant site for the remainder of this academic year and will be reviewed in preparation for the new term in September.

Off-site Sporting Events

Following a recent sporting event a parent raised a concern over the travel arrangements for a group of children and the supervision of the children once at the event.

Firstly we must apologise for the nature of the transport arrangements; as a result of these recent events we are now reviewing our procedures and associated documentation for all off-site sporting events. Letters prior to events will include greater detail about transport and staff/parent drivers and we will be purchasing a set of EU-approved booster seats for children who do not meet the 135cm requirement.

We regularly attend events that are hosted by other schools and unfortunately have no control over matters outside of our group, we would however not put the children at risk if we felt the arrangements did not supervise the children properly through the combined efforts of our own or event staff. Rigorous risk assessments are made of each site by the organisers before each event in order to satisfy all health and safety requirements. Whilst many events during the school day do not allow parents to attend, we always aim to provide as many members of staff possible without impacting the learning happening back at school.

Please do continue to keep us informed of your thoughts regarding matters concerning the school; whilst we cannot guarantee a solution to suit everyone, we will always endeavour to explore different solutions to keep the children's safety, happiness and learning at the heart of our school.