

Cuddington and Dinton Church of England School

Minutes of Parent Forum

Held via Zoom Virtual Video Call (due to COVID 19 social distancing restrictions)

On 20th November 2020

Present: Kim Price (Head), Mayda Trew (Y6), Caroline Mole (Y5), Ali Hadley (Y4), Precious Dube (Y3), Ruth Redding (Y2), Becky Swain (Y1), Poppy Smith (R)

Item	Topic	Minute
1	Positive comments and thanks	Mrs. Price expressed that it had been a very challenging week at the school due to the ever-encroaching COVID cases. Parents' comments have been gratefully received. Mrs. Price thanked the parents for sharing the positives.
2	Visiting the church and Armistice Day	<p>Armistice Day – some foundation parents were concerned that in discussing the war in class, their children had become upset and would have liked to have known this was going to be discussed so they were prepared to deal with it at home. It was requested that if a difficult subject is going to be discussed at school, parents would like to be forewarned and that it would be helpful if any resources, such as videos, used in the classroom were shared with the parents.</p> <p>Churchyard – some foundation parents have found there is a disconnect between the school and church settings and for some children, visiting the war memorial in the graveyard on Armistice Day was scary. Rev. Phil does do assemblies at the moment but these are from his house. It was suggested that parents could spend some time in the graveyard with their children once everyone has gone home to get them used to the setting of the church.</p>
3	Communication & newsletter	<p>There was lots of positive feedback about the improvement of communication. The 'Dates for your Diary' will be added back onto the newsletter and there will be a list of Christmas activities this week.</p> <p>Foundation parents felt there was a lot of communication using various methods and it was queried if these could all be in one place. It isn't possible to link anything with Tapestry as this is 'stand-alone'. Newsletters are on the website.</p> <p>Mrs Price asked Mrs Smith to prepare a FAQ for Foundation parents.</p>
4	Parking at the recreation ground	Parking is difficult in Cuddington, especially at the moment due to effects of the pandemic. It is still encouraged to park at the recreation ground in Cuddington. If driving in the village, there has been a one-way system suggested to follow but, of course, this is

not mandatory. It is also useful if parents follow the suggested one-way system around the Dinton triangle.

- 5 One-way system in Cuddington churchyard The idea of using the infant playground for pick-up incorporating a one-way system has been discussed by staff but it has been agreed that this is not a practical solution as the outside foundation area would need to be cleared every night in case someone touches something and contaminates it. A one-way system in the graveyard has been presented as an option.
- The staff are very understanding if a parent is late to junior pick-up due to a delay at infant pick-up. The children are also reassured that it is fine if their parents are late due to this reason.
- 6 School bus Any bus queries should be directed to Pupil transport at Bucks Admissions.
- 7 School lunches Due to a lack of on-site kitchen facilities, the school needs to use the current provider. Flexibility is an issue for some parents but the company purchases food in advance for the meal quantities ordered.
- 8 Trainers for PE There was a query about single-coloured only trainers for PE. This is so that trainers don't become 'competitive' and remain simple in line with the rest of the school uniform.
- It will be trialled this year that polo shirts can form part of the winter uniform.
- 9 Y5 Assessments and progress information Pupil assessments were carried out at the start of the year due to the school shutdown in spring and summer, and the teachers are in the process of carrying out another assessment to evaluate progress. This progress will be shared during the next parents' evening which is due to be in early spring (which would have happened normally). Interim progress reports are not necessarily a full reflection of progress but the school will share areas where children will need more support. It is felt that by early spring, teachers will have a clear idea of where the children are in their learning. It was suggested that the spelling score could go into the learning log and Mrs. Price will discuss with the staff ways to get spellings and reading scores/comments to parents. Reading and writing have been made a priority, and there is a lot of reading in school. It's not possible to take photos of work but it may be possible to send home photocopies of some work. Again, this will be discussed with the staff.
- 10 Homework during infant Night Owls It will be permitted for the children to do MyMaths and reading during Night Owls. There is only one adult on duty so they would not be able to give the one-to-one time to a pupil that may be needed to carry out other homework. Children will be allowed to take their spellings in and practice, so long as they can do this independently without the need for additional input from the adult on duty.

- 11 Parents' evening Some parents felt that the 10 minutes allocated for each phone call was too short, especially considering the unusual months prior to this term. Mrs. Price said that if parents felt more time was necessary, they could request more time and this would be a separate phone call.
- It was suggested that the next parents' evening could be on Zoom but it was explained that there is not enough bandwidth for it to be reliable with up to four staff members having separate zoom conversations simultaneously.
- A video introduction of the teacher was suggested and this was developed further into suggesting that that it could tie into an 'end of topic finale' video but this will take a lot of time to get something of good quality and it is important not to take the teachers away from teaching time.
- 12 Carol service It is not possible to practice altogether due to bubbles and the music teacher is unable to go between bubbles to teach the songs. For these reasons, it does not look as if a carol concert this year will be possible.
- 13 Meeting close Mrs. Price reassured that any further lockdown will be constantly monitored and reviewed to what has been successful from the previous lockdown.
- Thanks were given to the school for making the COVID restrictions workable, enabling the children to attend.