

Parent Forum 20th June 2025

Present: Miss Hindle, Jason Kinghorn (Vice Chair of Governors), Jenny Blades (Year 4 rep), Amy Kinahan (Year 1 rep), Tansy Goodman (Reception and covered Year 3), Lauren Clark (Year 2 rep), Hannah Buckland (Year 5 rep)

Apologies: Lydia (Year 5 rep), Bee Rand (Year 6 rep), Jen (Year 3 rep), Louise Calverley (Year 2 rep)

Recap of aims and objectives of the Parent Forum for clarification:

- Aim – wider whole school improvement: school working together in partnership with parents to improve the whole school experience
- More of the smaller points need raising to school office or class teachers – year reps can always do this and feedback if needed
- Two-way communication to review documents i.e. reports and policies
- Need to have a tally of how many parents are raising each point in future – if only 2/3 can we have smaller conversations rather than waiting for the parents forum meetings
- We will limit number of points in future – focus needs to be on wider school development

Reception class homework –

They would like school to email and/ or post homework requests on Seesaw. Paper requests aren't reliable with 4/5 year olds, but also emails can be missed - poss use reading journal?

Feedback passed onto Class 1 teachers and homework will be by email/ seesaw in future

Forest school

A few parents are also concerned about the transition to year 1 and are seeking reassurance that open play provisions are available and forest school once a week. Year 1 also keen to see forest school return

- *Several transition sessions are being planned for Year 1 pupils with the new teacher Mrs James and Mrs Evetts. Forest School will continue from September.*
- *Mrs James – very experienced Eys and KS1 teacher – already working on handover. First transition period next Thursday*
- *Play based learning and will aim for weekly forest school in September*

Star of the week-

It was suggested that the Star of the Week award could be a certificate which is dated and has the reason for the award. Wrist bands are often lost before they make it home.

- *Children report that they like wrist band but will use certificates from September if preferred*

Trips

Return transport to school for trips was raised by a lot of parents. Parents are often expected to be in different places at the same time if there are siblings in different classes.

- *This is a rare occasion when there are trip clashes. We do not expect parents to be in two places at once and if parents are collecting from a trip they either arrange to pick up the other sibling earlier or the children are kept free of charge in afterschool care until the parent can get here.*

Please could we ask that we are not called during the working day about admin tasks as people have had to come out of meetings and consultations to answer calls as they've been worried that it is school only to be hassled about some trip or other. If school does ring please can they always leave a voicemail or follow up with an email.

- *We send out letters in advance, email reminders and send follow up printed letters to parents who have not yet confirmed consent or paid for the trip. We can NOT allow a child to go on a trip without consent. A telephone call is our last resort. We are happy to remove this option but we do expect parents to reply to emails after providing plenty of notice.*

Could the school be more forthcoming with information about trips and events, with more reminders?

At present we do the following:

- *Send a letter in advance*
- *Put the information on ParentPay*
- *Upload the Trip information onto the school calendar on the website which is synced to parents (who opt in) phone*
- *List all events on the weekly newsletter*
- *Highlight next week's events on the newsletter in bold*
- *Email reminders a few days before*
- *In previous times we have received feedback parents receive too many emails, therefore we will not be increasing the amount of communications.*

We would like to suggest parents take responsibility with the information we provide them with and organise their own diaries please.

- *Will give a list of diary dates in September for upcoming trips – new Schemes of Work so teachers can plan relevant trips in advance*
- *It will be made clear for trips that require picking up from other places, free after school places will be available for siblings, or welcome to pick up siblings early if easier.*
- *Parent's Forum to send hyperlink to calendar via WhatsApp class groups*

Please can consent forms be more consistent? Class 3 seems to have them for everything and then the same trip in class 2 doesn't need one but we get hassled for the consent form to be sent back otherwise the child can't go, yet no-one in class 2 had to send one at all e.g. science festival. It seems to work well when there's a tick box on parent pay for consent.

- *Noted re. the variation of consent form section at the bottom of the letters for the Science trip.*
- *To clarify moving forwards consent forms to be completed should only be required in three instances:*
 - 1. If the trip is free of charge then we need parental consent that they are happy for their child to attend the trip.*
 - 2. If the child is PPG then we need signed consent or an email just for that child.*
 - 3. If the trip involves parent/carer to collect from the venue then from a Safeguarding perspective we need to know who will be collecting their child*
ParentPay is used for consent for all trips (except for bullet points 1-3 above)
- *School will investigate use of Microsoft Form as consent, or parents welcome to email in rather than print the form.*

Reminder please: Could horse trailers and lorries please park in Link End Road. This had been asked before, but seems to be happening more frequently again. Would it be possible to send out a reminder to parents?

- *We previously put a note out on the newsletter after this point was raised before, but we will put another reminder out again*

Clubs:

After school sewing club have been told they have to provide all their supplies and if they don't they can't make anything! Parents have requested that the cost should cover the materials even if it increases the cost of the club.

- *This is unusual and may have been linked to a recent teddy bear project where children would want to choose their own fabric perhaps.*

Playtime

Queries from parents re adult: child ratio for supervision and activities available.

Also regarding playtime, students report that themselves or classmates are being kept behind to finish work or to do more work. Worried students are missing break times.

- *Staff make a huge effort in providing different activities for the children to access during lunchtime.*
- *As a school, children are very privileged with the amount of outdoor space they have access to, the different grassed, hard core and play areas including gym equipment and climbing equipment.*
- *Sports Monitors have been helping to set up new activities for everyone to access this week.*
- *Chalks will continue to be used*
- *Ratio of students to staff suitable*
- *Can we look into buying sets of bat and balls? – linked to primal reflex development*

- *If children are kept in during playtime, this is due to their behaviour during class time. Warnings would have been given before this point, again, linking to the behaviour sanctions.*

Behaviour policy

The new behaviour policy is in place (as shared on the newsletter after Easter). Where appropriate and linking to the behaviour criteria, conversations have been held with some parents.

The Wobbly Cloud in Class 2 means some minutes are missed from golden time, and there are always warnings given before this happens.

KS2 mobile phone education

I know that school have a no phone policy but many in ks2 get phones with very little education around them (parents and children). Please can we look at info sharing around mobile phones (raised previously but would like it followed up)

- *Information regarding Smart Free mobile phones has already been shared with Class 4 and added to the website following the previous request via Parent Forum. E-safety reminders are revisited, particularly in Class 4*
- *Links to all the info on the website – links to be shared with parents*
- *Share and start conversations via facebook etc*
- *School support not having access to mobile phones but phones are banned at Eldersfield*
- *Governors would also support more education re mobile phones, social media etc from safeguarding point of view so will publicise this*
- *Parent Forum – Bee (!) – we can do something to put on the newsletter?*

Music lessons over lunchtime

The reason they run over lunch was due to the number of children receiving music lessons. The music teacher rotates which child misses part of their lunch break. There has been ONE instance with a lunch when we first started the lessons over lunch but this is the only instance the office are aware of. We can restrict the number of lessons so that we only run from 1.00-3.15pm. As discussed previously, the private music lessons are an admin overhead for the school office, but we know parents are keen to keep them. The guitar teacher is unreliable and with the amount of trips we have, this can sometimes prove difficult to manage.

Students with hot school lunches on Weds who have music lessons at lunch can now be sent to lunch early and will eat with KS1 before their piano lessons

Rugby/ Petelo coaching

Concern over coaches working with the students without teacher supervision, and that issues are sometimes reported to teachers after the event rather than addressed at the time.

- *Rugby coaches have been reminded that any issues need to be addressed at the time, and of behaviour expectations.*
- *Communication to parents will let them know which sport will be focussed on each term to avoid it being labelled as ‘rugby’ even when it’s athletics etc. Note that KS2 will swim and not do ‘rugby’ during the Autumn term.*

Extra notes

Information regarding the structure of the school: Teachers, TAs, Parent Forum, reps, PTFA and Governors will be circulated. This will include the roles of each person and group/committee/sub-committee to improve clarity for parents.