

Parent's Forum 18/11/2024

[\(discussion at parents forum / response by school prior to meeting\)](#)

Year 3 positive feedback: Many parents commented how the children are so enthusiastic about school at the moment and that the small group working is going so well

After-school care

Spent a lot of time on this previously. Although parents often ask for longer hours, when this was investigated via parent survey, the feedback was, in the majority, that longer hours would only be used sporadically rather than regularly. Therefore it is currently thought that longer hours are unsustainable.

Nearly doubling the price of after school care with no extended hours.

This was not the case. There was an increase of £1.50 to bring the provision to £4.00 in line with inflation for the new financial year in April 2024 following the survey which was sent out to parents in March this year. £4.00 for an hour and a half's childcare provision is still seen to be very reasonable. Please see the original information which was shared with parents for after school provision when it was first introduced in September 2021.

- French finishing at 4pm and not 4:15 like other clubs (makes it difficult for working parents when having to wait for second siblings etc)
These are the timings given for the French provision from the provider. School did ask whether this club could be extended until 4.15pm in line with the other clubs, but this isn't an option for the provider as the sessions run for 45 minutes for a key stage 1 club.
- However, French club is brilliant and would be great if it could continue long term
We would really like the French club to continue too. Please note though, this is currently running with low attendance so it only just viable for the provider. More interest would be welcomed as parents asked specifically for a key stage 1 language club previously through the forum.
- Parents from several classes have asked if the timings of after school care could be looked at again (can the survey be re-issued?). It would really help working parents if it could be extended to 5pm, but there is also a concern about cost here due to the recent increase in price for current offering.
The last survey was only sent out to parents in March this year following previous discussions with the parent forum. The results showed very low demand for extending the collection time on a regular basis.
Survey redone annually.

Reading books

- Class 2 reading books don't seem to be getting changed that often, we appreciate there's been supply teachers in etc, but one parent was told about a basket to put reading books in, but parents and children don't know of this system.

Raise with office if there is a specific class query.

This has been shared with the children and they are reminded in the mornings to put their books into the boxes for changing on Tuesdays and Fridays. A note about routines was included on the Class 2 page for parents as well as an email sent out. Please can parents sign the reading log when their child has read their book so staff know it has been completed to be able to change the books. (N.B. This is a class query rather than parent forum item.)

Clothing

- A lot of parents are concerned about the amount of clothing going missing, can we come up with a better system/more support when changing so clothes do not get lost so easily? And a reminder of the protocol if something is lost, will it be put somewhere at end of day etc?

We find a lot of uniform isn't clearly labelled which adds to the lost property/unclaimed collection. The recycling scheme is great, although new labels need to be included by the new owners too. Spare clothes are placed outside on the bench daily for collection at the end of the day. Missing uniform takes time up in school too. Children are encouraged to look after their own belongings as part of independence, but we are open to other helpful suggestions too.

Use stickers so clear – pen fades

PTFA get money from the labels sold- get a code

There are specific changing places so need to reinforce keeping neat piles so they learn to look after their own things.

Crate in gazebo suggested so lost items stay dry

- Suggestion to have some Spare trainers and rugby boots in school, donations could be asked for and Vicky H would be happy to wash

We can find some limited space for a few spare pairs of trainers if this would help, although we are trying to encourage children and their families to bring what is needed into school each day. Class P.E. days are kept the same and emails/messages are sent out when additional sports activities have been arranged.

Supply in Class 2

- Will the same supply teacher be used up until Mrs Tambling comes back, a few parents concerned it's not as smooth a transition into class 2 as hoped. We do appreciate the school are doing the best they can to cover but worried there's a lack of consistency.

As you will appreciate, we cannot plan or know when cover is required. Effort is made to try and keep the same supply teacher as much as possible until a return.

Mrs T has returned this week

Morning bell

- Morning bell goes at 8:43am not 8:45 - how does this influence late marks etc? (Also class 4 has been told they register between 8:40-8:45 – is the register kept open until 8:45?)

This is the timer on the bell system, but we always keep the doors open until 8.45am. Children are registered at 8.45am when school officially starts. N.B. Lateness does have to be monitored by all schools too. Regular lateness falls into persistent lateness for register records too.

Timer will be reset next week

National agenda – attendance a key focus -> persistent absence notice for routine offenders

Register taken at 8:45 promptly

School lunches

- The quality of the lunches seem to have taken a nose dive again, is this something the school is aware of / monitoring?

This is something the school have also noticed and our views have been shared with the catering company, by providing honest feedback with them. We have been informed there is a new chef in post. The school are in the process of considering possible alternative providers for the school lunch provision and initial enquiries are currently being made. Please see the draft school lunch questionnaire 3 which will be used to seek parents' views. The lunch survey will be created as a Microsoft online document once the forum have viewed the draft questionnaire first

- A few weeks back, at least 6 kids had to have gluten free fishfingers (which weren't great apparently) because a few people had forgotten their packed lunch and got the normal fishfingers.
- One student didn't get all her lunch today as they ran out
- Tiny portions
- Lots of kids are now refusing to eat any lunches and insisting on packed lunches when they used to like most of the things
- The menu was more odd this term than it used to be

We have heard a new menu is being trialled with the chef. We can use the feedback from the lunch survey to share findings back to them. Many of the reception children need lots of encouragement to eat more of their lunches. We appreciate parents have different views on this and guidance would be welcomed for some individual children. Please can we ask that parents talk to their child about the menu options when these are chosen as often we hear 'I don't like this' or 'I didn't want this' from the younger children.

Some days are ok but not consistent. Feedback given to caterers.

Reviewing options of alternative caterers

Questionnaire

Packed lunches from home – can be taken outside but monitored by an adult

Views – how much do parents want school to encourage the children to eat? Can parents check that they are ordering food that the children like as lots of children saying they don't like what they have been ordered.

They are allowed seconds so can go up for more if still hungry

Morning welcome

- I think school might be doing it again now.... but it is lovely when there is a staff presence in the playground in the morning to welcome parents & kids. It didn't feel right just sending them into a building at the start of term & I missed seeing their cheerful faces!

Staff have been at the door as before, but were just inside the entrance area initially to help guide the new Reception children around to their cloakroom. Two adults are on duty each morning now.

Homework

- Class 4: Lack of Homework currently – can a little be set to ease them in ready for secondary school?

(This is a class query rather than a parent forum item)

Class query

School policy

Can it be increased throughout school as such a shock going to secondary school – so they can get used to the routine

School trips

- Cost and frequency of school trips: a lot with two children in last 2 classes.

The additional trips have been requested by many parents in key stage 2. These involve staff often giving up their spare time to accommodate these school trips and extra sports events out of school hours. A review can take place, but this will of course limit the number of experiences the school is then able to offer. Ofsted commended the school during their recent inspection and the area of personal development was judged to be outstanding

- Please can we be provided with a schedule of school trips and cost for each class to help parents plan

Sometimes it is difficult to confirm trips far in advance, but we will try to provide a plan to help where possible. Plenty of notice is provided for residential trips in key stage 2

This was reviewed and the overwhelming majority wanted it to stay as currently is re residential.

Year 5 and 6 may not have been in the review so this is something that could be looked at.

Coaches are the main cost – possible use of community mini buses?

Also balance between using coaches and relying on parent drop off and collection to external locations

Parking

- Parking, ensuring parents park in the direction of travel and not going three point turns in middle of road instead of turning at turning points
- Can parents be reminded to not unload their kids out of cars onto the road (use opposite door)

- Parents are very concerned about the parking and general road safety getting from cars into school

As you know, this has been discussed at the previous forum meetings. Partnership work with the Highways has taken place and additional markings have been added to the road. We are also arranging a road safety awareness assembly and workshops for next halfterm. We will continue to seek any further possible opportunities to support this area, which is also of great frustration to the school. Contact will be made with the Parish Council to explore whether it is possible to look at the displayed speed signs.

Regular notes are included on the newsletter about considerate parking too.

Parents to not walk their children across the staff car park, or to park right by the entrance gate as staff cannot see to exit.

A major concern for school as well but very hard to find a solution

Been taken to Governors

Parish Council and Highways – solar flashing speed signs – can it be set at the restricted timings?

Expensive but sustainable

Parents need to log all near misses with the school office so that we form a bank of evidence

Posters designed by children will be publicised – website and banners

High- vis scarecrows?

Junior governors – can they write to MP etc?

Parking – park closer together please

Dojo app

- Suggestion of dojo app so all info is in one place

The Seesaw platform is in use for some classes. We hear this is popular at some secondary schools.

A behaviour/ reward class app usually displayed on the interactive board during lessons

Something to consider in time but not currently clear on pros and cons

Smart phones

- Smart phone education for pupils and possibly parents too.

E-safety is included within the Computing curriculum. Information has also been uploaded onto the school website for parents.

- Huge 'smart phone free' movement after a lot of evidence showing the negative effects of use under yr9, National debate/suggestion is to delay smart phones to yr9.

We are a mobile phone free school and support this national concern. It is expected that further information will be released which can then be shared by schools more widely.

- Could school help get the message to pupils/parents, so they don't feel like they're 'going it alone' to ban smart phones for their children until yr 9?

'smart phone free movement' – social media element is very damaging and better if more parents are supporting. They are willing to come and talk. Can school support this movement? School happy to share leaflets etc and will see if they can talk to school and parents as well.

Free fruit/milk

- Parents in reception are concerned because apparently the older children in class 2 push past the reception children to get to the fruit table outside. This is daunting for some of the Reception children who are, as a result, missing out on their snack.

Reminders about good manners have been shared and the children in Reception are shown and encouraged to choose a piece of fruit they would like along with their milk. We can continue monitoring this.

Additional items from school include:

- School Lunch survey
- Parents' views for the school's LIFE vision – are the right values being focussed on?

To be circulated to parents shortly