

Parent forum meeting 30th June 2023

Matters arising from the previous meeting

Please see minutes from the last meeting

Agenda items

- Is First Aid something that they will be taught? Does an external provider come in and teach them basic first aid/life saving skills?

First Aid has previously been delivered to upper key stage 2 children and we would be happy to explore any possible options for future delivery from St John's Ambulance.

- the quality of the school photos.....

School would be happy to take any suggestions of other photographers which could be used.

Perhaps considering a parent who has photography skills may be a way forward for future photography arrangements as we have seen the high quality of these before.

- Many parents are concerned about Forest school and wondering if during the warm weather it could take place in the morning when it is cooler and children change into shorts and t shorts after, rather than having the children in long sleeve tops and tracksuit bottoms in 30 degree heat.

Parents can be reassured that Forest School is held in the shade under the trees when the weather is warm. Thin, long trousers are a much more sensible option for children to wear than tracksuit bottoms, although parents decide what they send their child into school with in for these sessions.

- Charity donation requests. Cost of living is pinching and we like to support the schools' fundraising efforts and can't always donate to other charities on top of that.

We understand the rising cost of living. More focus could be spent on school fundraising instead. National charities are usually supported at various times through the year. Any donations are always made on an optional basis, with certainly no pressure from school.

- Several parents asked for a more diverse range of after school clubs available eg learning foreign languages, drama club, choir (A school choir was mentioned several times and could possibly link in with fundraising for the PTFA). A Reading club was

also mentioned for those that are struggling with reading or some additional support in lunchtimes.

As discussed at our last meeting, we have been looking into providing some extra, wider options for additional after school activities from September and these plans will be shared before the end of term. We also collected pupils' views as part of this work.

We would like it to be noted that time has been taken to look into different activity options including Computing, but some activities prove difficult to source. This includes peoples' skills along with the capacity to support us on a regular basis. Other suggestions of any help would however be welcomed as we are keen as a school to also extend the after school activities currently on offer.

- A few parents are thinking about music lessons for next term and asking if there was a possibility of a trial couple of weeks before committing to an entire term.

This is something we could ask the music teachers about and see if this trial is something they could offer, then come back to the Forum with their response.

- It was felt amongst the parents that there was a lot of pressure put on the year 2 children for their SATs.
- On a positive note the parents have feed back y=that they love the fact that the older children interact with the younger child and are creating strong role models within the school. Parents would love more of this.

We are pleased these opportunities were received positively. We will also look into arranging more interaction as discussed at our last meeting. Sports Day will provide further interaction between the team houses and the younger and older children too.

Parking and Road

- There was a near miss recently outside the school (which was reported to the office). Parents are asking for an update of what is being done by the school with regards to parking. The parent concerned has reported the incident to the council and put forward an application for a zebra crossing to be installed.

As discussed at our last meeting, the main road is managed by Highways and the Council. Parents are still strongly encouraged to report any safety concerns and near misses. The school office advised to the parent to report this concern directly which we fully support. We understand following this conversation, the police will try and complete speeding spot checks along the main road. Miss Hindle has also raised parents and the school's concerns as part of an audit with the Council to see if anything further can be offered to the school. Happy to feedback on their responses at our Autumn term forum meeting.

- It was suggested that if the school gates could be opened at drop off and pick up time this would reduce congestion at the gates and may clear cars quicker.

School will open the large gate to see if this helps to alleviate congestion. We'll let parents know in Friday's newsletter and arrange for the gate to be open in the mornings and before collection each day from next Monday (3rd July) as a trial. Thanks for the suggestion.

Communication

- There appears to be an Online calendar now on the website of school events, although very few parents seemed to be aware of this, could it also include details eg lunch required, uniform etc

We're pleased some of you have noticed the improvements we're making with the website. We'll include a message on Friday's newsletter to signpost all parents to the events, PFTA and Parent Forum pages.

- It has been suggested that a "What's happening" outdoor board in the playground would be useful for each month or week. With house points, PTFA ice creams, non uniform days etc... A parent in Year 1 has volunteered to make one.

Happy for this to be trialled with volunteer assistance to collate and display the information if this maybe helpful to parents. Thank you!

- PTFA need help with recruitment.

We totally agree and have since included further messages on the newsletter and PTFA website page to make parents aware of this. A letter was also shared with the new Reception parents last week as part of this recruitment plea.

- General lack of any feedback on progress good or bad. Very few parents seem to know how and what their children were doing at school. It was asked at the beginning of the year that the blue books are taken in everyday and they go back and forth with zero correspondence.

Additional agenda item from school

- To collect parent's thoughts about whether the arrangement of an online safety workshop during the next academic year would be helpful.