

Minutes from the parent forum meeting 19th May 2023

Present; SH, Hk, VH, LC, JB, SG, CT, BR

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Council lights to be switched off during the school holidays- SH to contact council.

Security Keypad/ gates for our child's safety due to the fast road- these are very expensive; it was suggested that maybe something the ptfa could raise money towards.

The disappearance of the cardboard policemen- they had to be returned as they are on short term loan and schools have to take it in turns.... BR offered to contact West Mercia police to see if we can arrange again.

Blue door at the front is no longer left open for breakfast club.

School communications- LC offered help and did audit of website nothing came of it. SH is keen to get our website updated asap and be used more to communicate with parents and the community.

Agenda points for 19/ 05/2023

General

1. **General scruffiness in their uniform – are the children asked to tuck shirts in etc. particularly when the children are on school trips, it shows a poor representation of the school.**

Reminders have been sent out following the last meeting via the newsletter and we will continue to remind the children about tucking their shirts in etc. to look smart, especially when representing the school. This helps us all!

2. **STEM based after school clubs as focus is very sport heavy (although DT club seems to have had a reprieve), some would be super keen on a coding club.**

A variety of clubs were discussed including Robotics, coding, it was decided that SH would speak to the children as to what they would like to do

3. **School meals, keep getting negative feedback.**

It is believed that the company although they started of with the best intentions, the meals seem to be inadequate with comments such as cold, black bits in the potatoes, not local or seasonal, small portions. SH to gather feedback

4. **Could there be more inter house competitions? Encourages pride, belonging across all year groups.**

These will be considered within future curriculum opportunities where appropriate. The house points continue to be collected and celebrated during Friday's assembly each week.

5. **PTFA what are they fund raising for? Or what does the school need to help students and how can we help?**

It was thought that people would like another big project to fundraise towards and that maybe the PTFA may be able to help with the costing of the security gates/ fencing for

the safety of our children. It would be great to see a tracker or something similar so everyone could see the progress.

6. Longer hours for the wrap around care, starting earlier and finishing later.

The current hours are just not long enough for working parents. This is a very long ongoing issue. SH said she will be reviewing this in time.

7. Daily mile reinstated

It will be suggested that children can participate in the daily mile through lunchtimes. The classes do lead their own exercises/movement routines regularly in addition to P.E. so sometimes there is a limit to fit everything extra into the school day on a constant basis.

8. Can more options be provided for the morning snack? Yoghurts, cereal bars not just fruit?

Fruit is provided for all Key Stage 1 children as part of a government initiative and in line with this, children in Key Stage 2 are also able to bring their own fruit in from home as a morning snack. This option also saves on litter. Yoghurts would be difficult for playtimes with lids and spoons during the time they are outside for. These arrangements have also been working well for the majority of children.

9. Has an alternative been planned for the usual London/ museum trip in 2024?

I understand there was not enough interest in this trip and tickets to an alternative show were not available to make it viable which was the reason for cancelling it. The trip is not actually part of the curriculum, but purely an enrichment experience and based on the goodwill of staff members in addition to the wealth of other trips, residentials and opportunities the school provides. Staff would really appreciate a 'Thank You' for the extra things they do and to hear that very few parents shared a 'thanks' for the 5-day residential trip where staff had given their own time to stay with away with the children and sacrificed time with their own family to accommodate this experience was quite shocking to hear.

10. Unless requested, we don't get to see the children's work at all, not even at parents evening which means it's hard for us as parents to see the children's progress and how we can help at home.

SH is looking into setting up an open afternoon where parents can pop in and look at their child's books with their child together. It was felt that this would be important to do on a variety of days with some flexibility of times. Previous teachers had given indications of test scores, developmental points and strengths during parent appointments.

11. Screen time in school...

It was thought that the after-school club tends to use the screens a lot, although recently it has been lovely as the children have been doing more creative activities and bringing items

home. IT seems to be used more in some classes than others for curriculum games such as Times Tables Rock Stars which the children do seem enthused about accessing at home too.

12. Litter in the playground, especially during fairs, ice cream days. Can the children do something in school to help reduce or encourage better habits?

Monitors are asked to help keep our outdoor areas tidy and I would expect that the fairs and ice-cream days are held on occasions than a regular basis. If these are extra events outside of school, then parents should really be supervising their children to dispose of litter carefully to reinforce this as a sign of respect for our school and wider environment. This is something which will be encouraged in school to support future Eco work.

13. New starters in September who currently have children in school, could the timings be altered to finish slightly later, or can the siblings leave at 3.00 to save hanging around for 15 minutes?

I understand these arrangements are across only 4 afternoons and most probably with the purpose of staggering the exit time to allow a quieter collection for new Reception children from the Class 1 door and then allowing time for other Siblings to be collected via the main route. If this is an issue for anyone, then I'm sure we can accommodate the older siblings leave at 3pm on these four afternoons if necessary.

14. Could we have the proposed dates for sports day and the school play?

These will be in today's newsletter.

Sports day 5th July 3.30-4.30pm

Road and school safety

The small white gates (although are something) aren't and don't slow the traffic sufficiently enough to be safe, passed school. The road closures have sent a lot of traffic passed the school who are unused to the 20mph and the speeds seen recently are quite scary. Can the council not offer anything else to ensure the children's safety?

I understand this had previously been investigated and advice sought. School holds a 'near-miss' book for parents to report any incidents as recommended by the Council. If parents have concerns, they can also raise these directly with the Highways department. Schools are often unfortunately very limited as to what else they can do regarding managing the speed of traffic on roads and around parking issues too.

Breakfast Club access – there are concerns that the easy access off the road via the blue door for breakfast club could allow an uninvited visitor into the school quite easily. Can access be more secure?

The main door into school via the office is used for Breakfast Club access and NOT the blue door at the front of the building for children's safety and to address previous parent

concerns. Children are let into the building through the main locked entrance door by a member of staff.

The school gate, ADG said he was getting quotes on getting a keypad entry system on the gate (similar to Hartpury School) what has happened with this?

The school gate- I understand quotes were previously sourced by the school which came in at a cost of around £10,000 which we do not have sufficient funds for. I would be happy to seek further advice when we next have a visit/meeting with the property services team to see if any alternative options can be suggested instead.

Is there a clear process and communication to pupils, on how and when they should raise concerns during playtimes? It seems the consensus amongst the children is that they don't say anything/tell when an incident has occurred as they think nothing will be done about it. (See below response)

There were only two parents who mentioned playtimes via the survey, but I will raise this with the Junior Governors when we next meet to discuss and reassure further.

School Website and communications

1. The school website – poor communication and very out of date.

I am very aware of this! It has been identified and I've even arranged a website audit to help us improve the website. This is taking place this week, then a programme of work will begin. Preparations have already started behind the scenes to improve the website with progress expected to be seen during this term.

Could emails contain the text for the messages rather than the letters being an attachment?

This has been considered, but due to the different formatting elements, some parents may only be able to view parts of the information, for example it would be difficult to send photos as included in the newsletter this way rather than as an attachment in PDF. Only 2 parents commented on this during the parent surveys and most found the way information is sent by email to be helpful as a way of receiving information from the school.

A request for us to a) be informed when the class teacher is off and b) reassurance that teaching is then not left to the TA for more than a few days.

Yes absolutely, that would be fine in periods of longer absence.

Annual Report Format for Parents

SH will bring an example to discuss.

Opportunity was provided for the Forum to offer feedback on the proposed annual report format for this year. It was agreed the presentation of information would be both helpful and informative. A couple of slight amendments would be made to reflect the current curriculum, but the format would be used for the end of year reports in July. The chance to also discuss the report with the child's class teacher afterwards would be valuable to some

and if this option could be offered through a phone call as an alternative to face to face meet, this would be appreciated for working parents.

Parents Workshops

SH discussed Autumn Term proposed workshops - Thinking ahead for the Autumn term e.g. possibly Phonics, KS1 SATs, Maths strategies/calculations, KS2 SATs or other ways to support your child at home with their learning and to share the age- related expectations linked to the curriculum. These were well received by the Forum members as ways to support children at home with their learning.

AOB

Class 4 currently only have 1 hour of pe a week, is this correct?

SH to investigate.

Uniform. Class 1&2 are currently coming to school in PE kit/Forest School clothes. Could we go back to wearing uniform every day?

SH to discuss with teachers.

School trips- class 2 haven't had many, could it be balanced out a bit more across the year groups? Would it be possible to have a rough overview at the beginning of the year so people can budget?

SH to feedback next meeting

Could the parents be informed as to the best way to contact teachers at the start of the new school year?

Yes