

Parent Forum Minutes 21 November 2019

Present

Rachel Coleman
Charlotte Cochrane
8 class reps

Parent Consultation Evening

- Positive feedback regarding the booking system
- Working parents appreciated booking slots being made active in the evening
- Easy & effective
- Some parents received repeated reminders about appointments
- There was a request for a template for teachers to follow when giving feedback to parents. RC explained this can be too prescriptive and doesn't allow for different parental/teacher preferences. Teachers are informed of a general framework for delivery feedback.

ACTION

RC to add link to booking system to website
RC to look into notifications and repeat reminders

Curriculum meetings

- Feedback from parents was that they are glad these have been re-instated
- Parents like the new curriculum- they are impressed and happy
- They found the meetings very useful as they provided information about the whole year

Charity events

- There have been more events than usual this term
 - some unexpected e.g. cross country
 - some already planned and committed to e.g. NSPCC
- Children may participate without making a donation
- RC and FOPS have established a school year rota with some activities being in a three year rolling schedule
- Parents asked if the classes could select one charity per class each year. It was suggested that the 'retiring' collections at the Christmas events could be donated to a charity chosen by classes/year groups and also the enrichment charity day allows classes to select charities, which are relevant/important to them.
- Parents asked if money could be raised for class stationary. RC explained the school's process for ordering and stationary for classes. Money raised by FOPS will this year go towards new IT equipment for classrooms.

ACTION

RC to upload charity 3 year rota to website

School day

An initial discussion was held about the possibility of changing the timings for the end of the school day. The proposal is to shorten the school day by reducing the lunch break (currently 1 hour & 25 minutes for KS1). Rationale includes behaviour issues begin to occur after 1pm, currently finishing later than many other local schools, Y6 walking home during the winter months when it is getting dark. Proposed finish times are 3:15 and 3:20, instead of current 3:30 & 3:35. There would be no curriculum time lost.

Everyone present agreed the lunch break is long and that in theory, the change would be a positive one. Parents raised concerns about working parents and child-minders that collect from other schools. If the change is introduced, it would be in September 2020 following a consultation process.

ACTION

Consultation process to be carried out in the New Year.

AOB

SRE 2020

Parents asked for clarification about the new curriculum. RC informed that the current policy is on the website and is being reviewed in line with new guidelines. The new policy/curriculum will be introduced/discussed at a future meeting. Puberty is currently covered in Year 5. RC will check the way the sessions are delivered to boys and girls.

ACTION

RC to add this item to the Spring 2 Parent Forum Agenda

Water drinking

Parents have asked if children can be reminded to drink throughout the day

ACTION

RC will ask teachers to remind children to drink but they must bring water to school in a named bottle.

Toilets

Parents are concerned about the lack of supplies (soap and toilet paper) in the toilets and report that some of the doors in the girls' toilet do not lock. RC is aware of the situation with the locks and is dealing with this. RC also reported that there is a plumbing problem in the new block and the toilets have been out of action, therefore the other toilets have increased use.

ACTION

RC will check the rotation system for toilet supplies
RC to check with site team on maintenance and repairs.

PE

RC confirmed that the overview of the PE curriculum is not yet part of the year group curriculum overviews on the "our learning" section of the school website. Concerns were raised about the balance of PE activities and timetabling of the subject when other events occur e.g. concerts.

ACTION

Curriculum overviews to be updated for all subjects and then uploaded to website.
Staff to be reminded of timetabling expectations and SLT to monitor this.

Extra curricular activities/clubs

A list of clubs has been added to the website. Question was raised about what Play Leaders are and how it works. RC explained that Y5 pupils are trained, using a published scheme, to run a range of different activities to each year group at lunchtime. Sessions run every day on a rota basis. Y5 continue the role in Y6 and then help to train the next group of Y5 leaders. A new group of children is currently being trained.

ACTION

RC to add hyperlinks on website to external companies who provide extra curricular clubs at Parish.

Parent Apps

Parents would like clarification about which ones to use. RC informed only School Gateway and Parent Mail (for parent consultation bookings only) are required. Parent Pay is no longer used.

ACTION

RC to liaise with school office and check balance transfers between apps and to find out progress on ability to turn off parent pay notifications.

Apps

RC asked parents to email her the details of any good educational Apps which she could recommend on the website.

ACTION

Parents to email via the school office any recommendations.

Lunchtimes

- Parents are worried that children aren't eating enough and asked if stickers could be given to Reception children. RC agreed
- RC informed of a new "top table" VIP scheme for which children can earn a certificate for good lunchtime behaviour and get to eat lunch with some staff members. All agreed this is a good idea.

ACTION

RC to speak to GG regarding YR children and lunchtime stickers.

New "top table" VIP scheme to be introduced during the spring term.

After school club

Feedback had not yet been given from the latest survey results. The activities that are run are on the website. There has been some misunderstanding about the cost of the sessions due to the way a recent letter was worded. The increase in cost does not relate directly to the provision of a meal as well as a snack. The school has compared the cost to other schools and it is similar to most other local schools, some of which do not provide a meal.

ACTION

RC to add menu to website

School to provide feedback from recent survey

New letter sent at start of Spring Term to clarify costs.

Good citizen initiatives

Parents have asked if children can be encouraged to take more collective responsibility for eco-friendly activities. RC explained that the staff member responsible for leading the eco-reps is leaving and she is identifying a replacement staff member to oversee the reps in their roles. Parish is part of the Eco Schools initiative and is working on the award system. Parents asked about the possibility of an environmental club. RC agreed this would be a nice club to run but would need a volunteer to run it.

ACTION

Confirm staff member for Eco Initiatives/Eco Club.

Vision and values

RC informed that she did not hear from anyone in response to her request for volunteers to join the working party to review the school's vision and values. She has approached one parent who has agreed to be involved.

Gates

Parents reported that there have been occasions when the gates have not been opened on time and they have missed trains to work. RC explained there is a system in place but will communicate feedback to staff.

ACTION

RC to remind staff of gate duty expectations

School to look at idea of walking bus for Y6 pupils to take YR pupils from the inside gate to the reception gates.

Other

- Class reps to direct parents to the school website and twitter feed - each year group has a teacher responsible for posting weekly tweets
- There was a request for less to be available when making donations for the Poppy Appeal, for example, slap bands
- Website - there will soon be a login available for accessing home learning activities on each year group page
- Very positive feedback about the new system for homework