

PARENT FORUM

MINUTES



Location: WPA



Date: 23/01/2024



Time: 18:00

IN ATTENDANCE

Stuart Mallott (WPA)

Mrs Myles-Gardiner (WPA)

Alyshia O'Connor (Chair)

Michelle Marchant

Kelly Cotton

Joanne Hance

Lucy Ellerker-Jones

Claire Abbott

Emma Makeham

Clare Whapshott

Kathryn Lazarou

Lisa Burton

Emma Parkinson

Simone Wall

Becky Smoothy

Maisie Adams

Debbie Sweeney

Nicci Blackwell

Sarah Cornwell

Martin Southby

Dawn Lamb

Robyn Farmer

APOLOGIES

Loren Bradley

Carly Smith

AnnMarie Hilton

Phoebe Buckley

ACTION POINTS

- New website to be launched end of January/ February
- New outdoor play area to be installed during February half term break
- Behaviour policy and presentation to be shared with all parents via ParentMail
- All staff to positively welcome the children into class in the mornings
- EYFS to order new wooden toys
- New Literacy and Maths groups to be communicated with parents alongside with the synopsis
- Spellings to be sent out to all parents in one document at the beginning of the week once introduced to the children- Tuesday ideally.
- Parents to feedback about parents evening. Discuss how the new format went with sharing assessment data. How can we move forward together?
- Mr Mallott will continue to invite the Trust to attend a parent facing session about their role within the school.
- Minutes from Parent Forum meetings will be shared with TDET

AGENDA

SUMMARY

Welcome and introductions

Welcome to all parents. Lovely to see an increase in attendees and it was noted that there was a busy agenda to get through.

Last meetings minutes

- Mr Mallott advised the new website is almost ready - due end of January / February
- Parent Forum's You Said, We Did poster has been shared & displayed around school
- Staff are undergoing Lego therapy training
- Half termly newsletter has been improved as per feedback from Parent Forum & photo quality improved also
- EYFS Little Tikes house - currently still in situ. Mr Mallott advised the EYFS classrooms will be receiving an investment & overhaul from the TDET with advice from Gladstone Primary. An emphasis on wooden toys within the classroom and a new outdoor play area to be installed during the February half term break (also KS2 playground) with funds raised by the PTFA and match-funded by TDET
- The new school map has been approved and will be shared with all new starters
- The annual calendar has been updated & shared along with a synopsis of events
- ParentMail links have an improved accuracy
- Literacy groups have **not** yet been communicated with parents
- A library key has been installed for ease of parent helpers who read with the children
- Mr Mallott has pursued the TDET re resurfacing the path from the KS1 gate
- Colour coded lanyards have been explained to the children

Minutes from Parent Forum meetings have & will be shared with TDET

Behaviour Policy

Mr Mallott shared the recently amended (and Academy Committee approved) School Behaviour Policy - with an emphasis on shared language & consistency, encouraging good behaviour and a shared approach. Both big & small issues will be logged to allow staff & parents to see the bigger picture of a child's behaviour. Orange slips will be used to log anti-social behaviour leading to restorative conversations with the child, teacher and then time with the SLT. Orange slips would reset every half term. The school will focus on positive behaviour - motto: READY RESPECTFUL SAFE. All-school assemblies have focused on the new behaviour policy & expectations so all children are aware. A high visibility from the Senior Leadership Team both on arrival at school and around during the day will help to encourage consistency.

Parent feedback:

Requested that all parents positively welcome the children into class

Requested that the Behaviour Policy & presentation be shared with all parents via ParentMail - Mr Mallott advised he would do so after Academy Committee approval

Asked if children were aware of the way in which staff would be speaking to them and if all staff would be following the same script - Mr Mallott confirmed that the children have been advised and that all WPA staff have had the same training

AGENDA**SUMMARY****Curriculum Update**

Mr Mallott advised that the school would be focusing on all subjects with intent - for example: history, geography, science, art, DT etc

New approach- discreet element of the foundation subjects. In the past there has been a theme approach with foundation subjects acting as a bolt on for example geography a bit of map work linked to the theme. School is now taking a linear approach and ensure each subject is clear and deepen learning.

Enrichment weeks are planned in the diary and on the shared calendar

Spellings

Mr Mallott has asked Mr Duncan to share all spellings with all classes earlier in the week ahead of their tests on Mondays - KS1 & KS2 - ideally on ClassDojo

Mr Duncan is looking into new spelling programmes to ensure consistency throughout year groups and whole school. He is currently trialling in year 5/6.

KS1 Assessments

Mr Mallott confirmed that the school will still take part in the non-compulsory Year 2 SATs. Children will participate in subtle termly assessments to ensure the school swiftly catch those falling & flying. The school are using an 'insight' data capture software to allow teachers to share information with one another so that class teachers are aware of a child's progress even when not in their literacy & mathematics classes.

Mr Mallott reassured Dolphins parents that their parents' evening appointments have only been delayed by a fortnight, not until after Easter, as misunderstood

AOB

Some parents questioned the use of the school's playing field in the winter months - children are coming home wet & muddy - the school have previously communicated that they will be benefiting from the entire grounds throughout the school year and that children should bring in weather-appropriate clothing or spares to change into. Mr Mallott also explained the school's investment in the 'Opal Program' which will encourage play & imagination across the playground and field. Parents will be invited into school when it's in place to see what it entails

Concerns were raised by some parents re the mixing of all the years - in particular, EYFS and those in KS2. Mr Mallott explained the benefits of children mixing with those in different year groups and introduced the idea of a buddy system - where children in Years 5 & 6 would be invited to be buddies to those in EYFS, providing a friendly face & support during break & lunchtime play. It was reiterated that adult staff would still be supervising all children outside and that the 'buddy system' was not in lieu of adult supervision

It was reiterated that any instances or concerns re bullying should first be raised with the child's class teacher and then subsequently the phase leader

It was noted that the school's communication re inconsiderate parking around school did not reference the zig-zags - parents & carers driving to school should **never** park on the yellow zig-zag markings. It was also discussed that parking spaces within the school car park should be left free & accessible for staff and that the bus parking space left clear for coaches to safely collect & return children to school

It was agreed that named lost property should be returned to the child and not deposited in the lost property boxes around school

Concerns were raised re inappropriate language in EYFS - Mr Mallott is aware of the situation and it is being both monitored & dealt with

Parents expressed disappointment at the closure of the Hive and the loss of Greg before Christmas. Mr Mallott offered sympathy and explained that the school were investing in a new provision to be rolled out after February half term - the new My Happy Mind app will be accessible for all children within school and their families at home

Thank you everyone for coming and your contributions. :)

Next Meeting : Tuesday 12 March 6pm